

SYLLABUS
Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
2012-2013

Facilitator: Amy Ship
Hospital Liaison: Jane Matlaw

Session 1, September 24: The Patient's Experience

Nancy Mairs, "On Being a Cripple" (essay)
Marjorie Williams, "Hit by Lightning" (essay)
Randall Jarrell, "The X-ray Waiting Room in the Hospital" (poem)

Session 2, October 22: Caregiving across Lines of Class and Culture

Ernest Hemingway, "Indian Camp" (story)
Danielle Ofri, "Torment" (essay)
Theodore Deppe, "Admission, Children's Unit" (poem)
Venetta Mason, "Another case of Chronic Pelvic Pain" (poem)

Session 3, November 19: Patients' Families: Advocates, Comforters, Secondary Sufferers

Lorrie Moore, "People Like That Are the Only People Here" (story)
Anne Harleman, "Thoreau's Laundry" (story)
Donald Hall, "Her Long Illness" and "Air Shatters in the Car's Small Room" (poems)

Session 4, December 17: Clinicians under Stress

Dannie Abse, "Case History" (poem)
Mikhail Bulgakov, "The Steel Windpipe" (story)
Constance Studer, "Mercy" (story)

Session 5, January 14: Wounded Healer/Healing the Healer

Atul Gawande, "When Doctors Make Mistakes" (essay)
William Carlos Williams, "The Use of Force" (short story)

Session 6, February 18: Confronting Mortality

Louisa May Alcott, "A Night" from Hospital Sketches (excerpt)
Joan Didion, "After Life" (essay)
Marjorie Williams, "The Halloween of My Dreams" (essay)
Jane Kenyon, "Let Evening Come" (poem)