

Health and Human Rights Enrichment Elective ENRH-181 Syllabus

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Description:

This course provides health professions students a historical background of the American healthcare system while challenging them to leverage their knowledge and power to advance human rights and human dignity in the Dallas community.

Rationale:

American medicine has and continues to perpetuate societal inequality. While students and movements have demanded medical accountability, understanding the history of medicine is crucial to contextualize healthcare's intimate role in structural injustice. Revealing the profound history of racism, sexism, and ableism in medicine is also key to honoring the many victims and to taking the first step in reparations.

However, awareness of historical wrongs is insufficient. This course will also challenge students to align their actions to their values. Students will be exposed to various nonprofits and advocacy opportunities to understand that medicine plays an integral role in all social justice movements. Furthermore, through interacting with other organizations, students will also be exposed to the social power they have simply by being in the healthcare field, and how this power should be used to promote human rights and dignity.

Critical Race Theory:

Critical Race Theory is the study of how racism against Black individuals is foundational to all American institutions. This academic field has received fierce backlash due to White discomfort acknowledging the suppressor role Whites still play since the beginning of American history. Through erasure and denial of this history, White supremacy have maintained innocence and power while refusing to take moral responsibility for past horrors. In this elective, we are openly antiracist and anti-white-supremacy. This elective will teach Critical Race Theory as it pertains to medicine to finally honor our Black peers and patients.

Objectives:

1. To introduce human rights to center many social justice movements.
2. To expose students to various times in history and present day where medicine has reinforced and perpetuated structural inequality.

3. To challenge students to critically evaluate their current power and place in the DFW community, and how to leverage that power to promote human rights and dignity.
4. To introduce students to DFW nonprofits committed to advancing human rights in many disciplines.

Logistics:

- Audience:
 - Medical students (MS1-MS4)
 - Health professions students (PA, PT, PO, MPH at any stage)
 - Graduate to post-doctoral students
 - **Minimum of 10 students** required for class to be conducted
- Structure:
 - 12, 1-hour didactic/discussion sessions
 - One optional human rights tour of Dallas (no credit opportunity)
 - Community service options on weekends for extra credit
- Evaluation:
 - Pass/fail
 - Attendance AND *participation* are mandatory for credit
 - Attendance will be conducted by the student liaison during class

Extra Credit:

Because attendance of 10 out of 12 sessions is required in order to obtain credit for the course, students may participate in the following extra credit sessions. Attending one session will replace one hour of didactic. Students have the opportunity therefore to obtain 3 hours of extra credit.

1. Senior Source Volunteering
2. Dallas Area Rape Crisis Volunteering
3. Asylum Evaluation Training

Topics Covered:

- Human rights law, asylum law, and the critical role of the health professional and forensic documentation in immigration cases
- Physical and psychological evidence of torture and other human rights abuses
- Effective medical-legal documentation, including affidavit writing
- Best practices for collaboration between health professionals and attorneys

Meeting and networking with other human rights-minded health professionals

Course Schedule:

- Title: **Dallas History via Google Maps**
 - Friday, September 9th, 2022
 - Location: in-person
 - Speaker: Angela Wang, MS4
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To outline human rights as a discipline in evaluating ethical conflicts, and its role in grounding all social justice movements.

- To review major neighborhoods and landmarks in Dallas in the greater history of American inequality.
 - To review the history of redlining and persistent health outcome disparities.
 - To discuss multiple landmark Supreme Court cases that were filed in Texas.
 - To list and encourage participation in Black, Latino, Asian, differently-abled run DFW businesses.
- Resources:
 - Book: *A History of “Big D”* by Michael V. Hazel
 - Podcast: *Roe v Wade Part 1: Who was Jane Roe?* By the Daily/NY Times
- Title: **Medical Exploitation of Black Bodies, Part 1**
 - Friday, September 16th, 2022
 - Location: in-person
 - Speaker: Angela Wang, MS4
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To briefly review political history of slavery leading up to the civil war.
 - To outline, in honest detail, how physicians were involved in the exploitation, torture, and “care” of Black individuals from 1619-1865
 - Resources:
 - Book: *Black Apartheid* by Harriet A. Washington
- Title: **Medical Exploitation of Black Bodies, Part 2**
 - Friday, September 30th, 2022
 - Location: in-person
 - Speaker: Angela Wang, MS4
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To briefly review Civil Rights history following the end of the Civil War to today.
 - To outline, in honest detail, the Jim Crow medical establishment and what efforts have been taken to dismantle this system.
 - To elucidate the gravity of racial disparities in medicine today.
 - To critically analyze modern-day race-based medicine while presenting solutions.
 - Resources:
 - Book: *Black Apartheid* by Harriet A. Washington
- Title: **White Fragility**
 - Friday, October 7th, 2022
 - Location: in-person
 - Speaker: Angela Wang, MS4
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To examine how whiteness dominates and IS American culture.
 - To define terms including prejudice, discrimination, white fragility, racial stamina, and antiracism.

- To break down multiple excuses and dominant narratives behind white fragility.
 - To describe racial stamina and exercise it in class.
 - To brainstorm anti-racism and how it might manifest in medical education.
 - Resources:
 - Book: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- Title: **Native American Genocide**
 - Date TBD
 - Speaker: TBD, tentatively Dr. Carolyn Smith-Morris, Southern Methodist University
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To discuss, in honest detail, the history of Native American genocide perpetrated by the US government.
 - To understand the Indian Health Services and current limitations of the system.
 - To describe a decolonization framework in clinical settings.
- Title: **American Eugenics: The Foundation for the Holocaust**
 - Date TBD
 - Location: TBD
 - Speaker: Dr. Rick Halperin, Southern Methodist University
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To review the medical establishment's role in legitimizing, advocating, and legislating for eugenics laws.
 - To compare the differences between American eugenics laws and those created during the Nazi regime.
 - To deliberate how this academic medical field was rebranded.
 - To discuss how eugenics prevails in modern day genetics and obstetrical practice.
- Title: **Homeless Health**
 - Date TBD
 - Location: TBD
 - Speaker: Dr. Lara Johnson, Parkland
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To detail major socioeconomic reasons for homelessness in the DFW area.
 - To illustrate a confluence of health determinants impacting homeless healthcare delivery.
 - To demonstrate a more humanizing approach to addressing homelessness in the clinic setting.
 - To discuss current dehumanizing laws in Dallas city impacting people experiencing homelessness.
 - To list resources available to offer patients or volunteer with.

- Title: ***No Más Bebés* Movie Screening**
 - Date: TBD
 - Location: in-person
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To expose medicine's extensive role in illegal sterilization of Black/brown patients
 - To discuss specific health disparities impacting the Hispanic American population
 - To detail remnants of eugenics in women's health today

- Title: **Refugee Health: The Role Doctors Play**
 - Date: TBD
 - Location: TBD
 - Speaker: Oakland Health? Human Rights Initiative?
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To illustrate current migration patterns and in the world today.
 - To discuss the rights of refugees according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
 - To detail the American asylum process and roles physicians can play.
 - To mention special considerations in refugee healthcare provision.

- Title: **LGBT Health and Politics**
 - Date: TBD
 - Location: in-person
 - Speaker: UTSW Surgical Residents
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To review gender affirming terminology for healthcare settings.
 - To discuss the history of LGBT individuals in the United States.
 - To review current medical options for LGBT individuals.
 - To discuss current political affronts to transgender individuals in the current TX legislature and in Dallas, TX.

- Title: **Death Penalty: State Sanctioned Murder**
 - Date: TBD
 - Location: in-person
 - Speaker: Angela Wang, MS4
 - Learning Objectives:
 - To detail the history of capital punishment in America and the ethical dilemma of physicians' involvement
 - To outline the statistics of capital punishment and the disparity that exists
 - To debate abolition versus continuation of the program

- Title: **American Insurance: Noble Intentions Gone Awry**
 - Date TBD
 - Location: in-person
 - Speaker: Angela Wang, MS4

- Learning Objectives:
 - To detail the history and intentions in health insurance creation.
 - To discuss how the industry led to the destruction of a single-payer system today.
 - To explain the intimate role insurance industries have on US politics today.

Date	Title	Learning Objectives	Accompanying Resources
Friday, September 9 th , 2022			
Friday, September 16 th , 2022			
Friday, September 30 th , 2022			
Friday, October 7 th , 2022			
Friday, October 14 th , 2022			
Friday, October 21 th , 2022			
Friday, October 28 th , 2022			
Friday, November 4 th , 2022			
Friday, November 11 th , 2022			
Friday, November 18 th , 2022			
Friday, December 2 nd , 2022			
Friday, December 9 th , 2022			

