

Course: Medicine in the Cinema: Exploring Women's Issues Which Impact Medical Care

Course Number assigned by registrar

Department: Ob/Gyn

Faculty Coordinator: Charles Brown, MD, MBA

Asst. Fac. Coordinators: Denisse Holcomb, MD

Periods Offered: 12

Length: 4 weeks

Max # of Students: 6

First Day Contact: Monday (Syllabus will be reviewed and the schedule will be finalized with the class)

First Contact Time: 9:00 AM

First Day Location: REMOTE Elective

Prerequisites: (please include any required clerkships; students have elective time starting in the early clerkship phase) N/A

I. Course Description: (brief summary of the course) See attached syllabus.

Educational Program Objectives	Related Course Objectives	Assessment methods (examples below)
Patient Care: Students will demonstrate the ability to provide patient-centered care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health as part of the interprofessional team.	Students will use the experience of viewing and discussing films, which demonstrate various aspects of current women's issues, to help develop their professional identity and improve their empathy and effectiveness in care for women and their families.	Self-assessment reported in reflective writings and a final essay

Remote Elective template

Knowledge for Practice: Students will demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.		The course will use reflective writing assignments to help with the professional development of the student.
Interpersonal and communication skills: Students will demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, families and health professionals.	1. Students will communicate effectively via chat, online meetings, written assignments, email.	Written assignments will be reviewed by the faculty.
Personal and professional development: Students will adhere to professional standards and demonstrate the qualities required to sustain lifelong personal and professional growth.	1. Students will adhere to the professional guidelines for online sessions. (separate document)	The course will use reflective writing assignments to help with the professional development of the student.
Critical thinking and Discovery: Students will be able to critically appraise literature, apply knowledge and engage in scholarly activity		The course will use reflective writing assignments to help with the professional development of the student
Health Care systems and society: Students will demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care.		The course will use reflective writing assignments to help with the professional development of the student

Remote Elective template

- II. Methods of Instruction: Remote, describe how content will be delivered, synchronous, asynchronous, group work, in teams, what online resources will be used if any.

The students will be assigned to view some movies with content related to women's issues. The entire class will then have a virtual meeting to share their impressions and discuss how the movie portrayed the issue. They will also be encouraged to share their learnings with the group. The faculty will facilitate the discussion using some techniques learned about student engagement by the UTSW Educational Technology team. Each movie will have a reflective writing assignment for each student. This reflective writing assignments will be submitted to the faculty for review. Each individual student's reflective writing will not be shared with the group.

- III. Overview of student responsibilities: (attendance, participation in online sessions, completion of a project/problem set)

The students will be responsible for:

- Accessing the chosen movies through a streaming site
- Viewing a 15 part documentary series entitled "The Story of Film: An Odyssey"
- Becoming familiar with skills and terminology to study cinema
- Watching the movie with attention to the identified women's issue contained in the movie
- Preparing a reflective writing about each movie (total of 4)
- Attendance at and participation in the virtual meeting
- Preparing an individual project to submit to the faculty at the end of the course (see syllabus for details)

- IV. Method of evaluation of students and requirements: Evaluation based on assessment methods listed above, grade is Pass/Fail

GRADING POLICY:

You must get a total of 70 points to PASS. Less than 70 points will be a FAIL.

Attendance at Virtual Meetings (on time)	40 points (maximum credit)
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Each meeting is a maximum of 10 points; delete 3 points if late

Reflective Writing	40 points (maximum credit)
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Each reflective writing is a maximum of 10 points; delete 3 points per day if late

Long Essay -- (Delete 10 points per day if late)	20 points (maximum credit)
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Total	100 points
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Syllabus
Medicine in the Cinema: Exploring Women's Issues Which
Impact Medical Care
UT Southwestern Medical School – Senior Elective
Course Number ***

INSTRUCTORS: Charles E. L. Brown, M.D, M.B.A (charles.brown@utsouthwestern.edu) and
Denisse Holcombe, M.D.(denisse.holcomb@utsouthwestern.edu)

ENROLLMENT: UTSW 4th year medical students

SESSION: 11th block: May 4-29, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETINGS: Tuesday afternoons (Skype conference) 2:00-4:00 PM

OVERVIEW:

Modern medicine, photography and cinema developed concurrently in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Several theorists have proposed that correspondences among the three have important implications for our understanding of vision, modernity and subjectivity. In recent years, there has been an explicit exploration of the assertion that integrating educational experiences in the humanities and arts with medicine and other sciences will lead to improved educational and career outcomes – for both medical education and medical practice this translates to better physicians providing better care.

This course will use cinema to explore how the presentation of various situations related to women's issues are handled in film. It will introduce the basic concepts of film study, allow you to reflect on how social and/or medical issues are presented in movies, and how they may relate to your own experiences, your acquisition of knowledge, and how to incorporate your understanding of these situations into your professional development. It is also becoming increasingly recognized that social determinates impact healthcare, and those caring for women have identified several women's issues which need understanding and attention; this course will have special attention to these social determinants. For the purposes of this course, and in the assignments below, women's issues should be viewed as social determinants of health

As a fourth year student, you will soon be embarking on the next phase of becoming a physician --residency training. To help you reflect on the medical issues or situations portrayed in these films, you will have an assignment to 1) -- tell how these or similar situations might have impacted your perspective on your role as a physician or 2) -- imagine you are in the situation and explain what action you might take to make the situation more ethical, patient centric or valuable to you as a physician. Try to remember a similar circumstance from your clinical

experiences, and describe this in the discussions and reflective writing, including what you have learned from your own experiences, or from the portrayal of those situations in the film.

During the first session, we will briefly discuss the elements of cinematic narrative and space, introduce genres of film, and present theories of film analysis. Using this background information, you will analyze and discuss various movies with attention to the medical and/or social themes and the cinematic techniques used.

The class was originally designed for group viewing and discussions. However, the reality of the COVID-19 situation mandates that we view them separately and discuss them via technology. Although the written assignments are the responsibility of each individual student, discussion and sharing of ideas is encouraged both inside and outside the scheduled class time.

STUDY OF CINEMA:

To prepare you to view the films, you will need some context, skills, and vocabulary.

1. Your first assignment is to view a documentary series produced by Mark Cousins entitled “The Story of Film: An Odyssey”(2011). This will give you a history of film, as well as some context on how and why film is produced and viewed in different societies. There are 15 episodes; try to finish this in the first week to help with your first writing assignment. The series is available for streaming on Hulu.
2. For skills and vocabulary, we will use the text book by Amy Villarejo, *Film Studies: The Basics*. It can be found at epdf.pub/film-studies-the-basics-film-studies.html. Read Capters 1 and 2 and review the Glossary prior to our first virtual meeting.

WOMEN’S ISSUES:

This term has many implications. As a starting point for this class, we have chosen some topics that might be encountered in many hospitals in the U.S.A.

- > Impact of women’s diseases on their family and community
- > Domestic violence
- > Domestic workers
- > Reproductive rights
- > Human trafficking
- > Sexual violence and rape

As the class unfolds, you will think of others, and we invite your thoughts for discussion.

MOVIES:

The movies we will watch are available from many different sources. It is strongly encouraged for you to view each movie twice to take the notes necessary to participate in the discussions and to complete your written assignments. If you have technical or financial difficulties accessing the assigned movies, please contact Dr. Brown.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Since this course is an Elective for credit, there are assignments required for you to pass the course.

Basic Instructions: Each assignment must have a title page with your name, date of submission title of movie, and medical and/or social stated. **This title page will not be counted in the page counts outlined in the above instructions.** If you choose another movie for the short essays, the summary of the movie will be an added page. Limit the summary to one page. **Number each page with your last name in the top right hand corner of the page.**

Written assignments: There will be two types of written assignments.

1. **reflective writing** after each session
2. a single **long paper**.

The first three reflective writings will be due by 12:00 one week from the date we discuss the movie (essentially before the next class). The final reflective writing assignment is due by 16:00 on the final Friday of the course. **Do not send the written work in the body of an email, but as a PDF attachment to the email.**

Reflective Writing: You are free to choose your own theme for the reflective writing assignment so long as it is related to the film and demonstrates reflection of your past events and experiences and how you have changed as a result. If you are unable to come up with an idea, suggestions for themes are listed under each assignment. In each reflection, please replace the names of any real people you may describe to protect their identity.

You may choose a film other than the one we view as a group as the topic for your reflective writing. If you do so, you must address the themes chosen for that week, and you need to add a separate page which gives a synopsis of the film you chose and describe how your movie relates to the themes we see in the movie we will view as a group.

The assignments for the reflective writing assignments are:

Week 1 – *Roma* (2018)

Medical/Social Themes: domestic help; reproductive rights

Possible sources for streaming: Netflix

Reflective Writing:

Suggestions:

1. What elements of this film make it difficult to apply to medical themes? Why did the director avoid the issue of “wanting the pregnancy” until the end of the movie?

2. Critique the character of Antonio's behavior in the hospital scene, as well as the other characters during her delivery. What would you do differently?
3. How did the use of the subtitles between Spanish and Mixtec, Cleo's native language, inform you about her relationship as a domestic worker? How does language impact your ability to care for patients; what is lost?

Week 2 – *Terms of Endearment* (1983)

Medical/Social Themes: impact of diseases on families

Possible sources for streaming: Amazon Prime Video, Google Play Movies & TV, Vudu, others

Reflective writing:

Suggestions:

1. In reflecting on your life and career thus far, describe one or more situations that you experienced where you related to the affected person both before and after a life-changing event. How did this/these event(s) help to shape your career decision?
2. Describe a professional experience in which you felt that the family dynamics of your patient made it difficult for you. How did you overcome this obstacle?
3. Describe a situation in which you cared for a patient who was permanently injured or terminally ill. Were you able to relate? If so, why? How did their diagnosis affect the care you provided for them?

Week 3 – *Eastern Promises* (2007)

Medical/Social Theme: human trafficking

Possible sources for streaming: Amazon Prime Video, Google Play Movies & TV, Vudu, others

Reflective writing:

Suggestions:

1. Describe the film's overall cultural environment and relate it to an environment that you have experienced. Do you feel there are similar cultural pockets here in the United States? How do healthcare providers interface with those? What suggestions would you have for improvement and how would you implement them?
2. Have you ever been involved with the care of patient where you suspected criminal activity, or felt that you might be threatened? How would you approach such a situation?
3. What are your thoughts about Anna reading a diary and/or attempting to place the infant? What are the dimensions of such activities?

Week 4 – *The Cider House Rules* (1999)

Medical/Social Themes: reproductive rights, rape

Possible sources for streaming: Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, Google Play Movies & TV, Vudu, others

Reflective writing:

Suggestions:

1. How did you assess Dr. Larch's training of Homer? How was it different from your training? Were there any similarities?
2. Have you had a situation in your medical experience where you changed your attitude of opinion? What was it? Why did you change? How will that lead to other changes in the future?
3. What are your feelings about Dr. Larch's relationship with the nursing staff?

Long Paper: This assignment will be due by 16:00 on May 29, 2020. This paper must be a minimum of 5 pages and a maximum of 10 pages. **The paper should include at least three references.**

The assignment for the long paper is:

1. Identify a woman's issue which is of particular interest to you. This issue might, or might not have been previously addressed.
2. Discuss elements why you feel that this issue is important to you, e.g., "I find dealing with family violence challenging", or "I wonder why that patient did not tell me about that problem sooner".
3. Find a movie or movies which address this issue.
4. Write a summary of the movie and your review of how it addresses your selected issue.
5. Describe how you feel this exercise will impact your professional experience or contribute to your professional development?

GRADING POLICY:

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Delete 3 points if late	
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Delete 3 points per day if late	
Long Essay	20 points (maximum credit)
Delete 10 points per day if late	
Total	<hr/> 100 points

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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