Syllabus

Narrative Medicine - the art of empathic communication - 75404

Last update 14-10-2015

HU Credits: 1

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: medicine - basic studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Ein Karem

Course/Module Coordinator: Einat Avrahami

Coordinator Email: avraein@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 9:45-10:15

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Einat Avrahami
Course/Module description:
At the heart of medicine lies the ability to listen, to interpret, and to represent the patient's evolving story in medical terms. Narrative Medicine (NM), or medicine practiced with narrative skills, recognizes that the understanding and interpretation of disease cannot be separated from the understanding of the person. Therefore, the theory and practice of NM do not discard the patient's illness story once it is interpreted and can be represented by the doctor's story (e.g. the diagnosis). Rather than impose the medicalized illness story as objective and superior to the patient's illness story, physicians who practice MD call for an affiliation with, or the co-creation of, patient and doctor illness stories. This course will urge students to restore the human subject at the center by employing narrative as a consistent conceptual framework through which physicians can think of all levels of health care, including a self-reflexive interrogation of their own values and beliefs.

Course/Module aims:
The goal of the course is to answer the overwhelming challenge of understanding the patient's unique story and at the same time treating patients' diseases. Course participants will develop their sensibility to language by engaging in diverse discourses and genres. They will also learn about and experience innovative methods that integrate evidence-based medicine with the skills of active listening, close reading, narrative writing and effective conversation.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
At the end of the course each student will be able to:
1) identify and discuss the rhetorical components and conditions of narrative and narration.
2) employ the skill of close reading as a basis for responding to the discourse of others.
3) write a narrative through the patient's voice and empoying his or her point of view.
4) write a self-reflexive journal.
5) conduct a narrative-based interview.
6) identify and be able to use circular questions in an interventive interview and in supervision.

Attendance requirements(%):
80 1 missed class only
Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course will be conducted in a flexible format, between graduate seminar and workshop. We will create a safe environment for relational learning that integrates in class writing, reading, and giving constructed feedback, thus enhancing participants' ability to practice professionalism and skilled communication. Students will engage in reflective writing, close reading, and exercises in narrative-based interview strategies in small groups of 2-4.

Each session will stem from and rely on the required theoretical and literary reading. Sessions will start with short presentations followed by a workshop in which participants are required to be active in discussion, in interviewing, and in writing.

Course/Module Content:
Major topics will include the rhetorical conditions and elements of narrative; revision(s) of disease and illness stories; disciplined and effective response to stories; caregivers’ and patients’ (re-) constructed roles as narrators; recognizing points of view as a prerequisite to empathy; healing stories; narrative-based interviews; the relational construction of testimony and beyond bioethics: narrative medical ethics.

Required Reading:
Required reading by the assigned order:


Additional Reading Material:
Bauby, Dominique. The Diving-Bell and the Butterfly.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 10 %
Assignments 40 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 40 %
term paper

Additional information:
The reading materials are in English and Hebrew. Required reading materials may be also in Hebrew. Students should be responsible for reading and/or translation of the Hebrew texts.