

Course Description: Examine the Painting/Examine the Patient

First-year elective

Instructors: Joel Shallit, M.D., and Johanna Shapiro, Ph.D.

Course Description: The objective of this course is to improve the visual skills needed in clinical diagnosis and the emotional sensitivity needed in compassionate care through techniques learned in examining works of art

Course Objectives: The student will ...

- Develop visual analysis skills related to interviewing, physical diagnosis, communication, and clinical reasoning through the study of art
- Be better able to deal with complexity and diagnosis through the examination of paintings
- Be better able to interpret patient emotions, and thereby to feel empathy and compassion for patients, through the study of art
- Be better able to understand patients of different backgrounds through the study of art

Course Competencies:

- Improved visual clinical observation
- Greater sensitivity to the nuances of how the patient initially presents to the physician and how the underlying illness effects the look, mood, and attitude of the patient
- Enhanced ability to recognize, read, and interpret emotions
- Ability to combine visual clues to physical exam when arriving at diagnosis
- Interactive class discussion will simulate discussion similar to ward rounds and help prepare student for collaborative treatment plans learned during the clinical years

Course Attitudes and Commitments:

- Understanding the importance of connecting with the patient
- Attitudes of empathy and compassion toward patients from different backgrounds

Recognizing the importance of story in medicine

Lecture Topics:

- **Art Literacy:** Basic art concepts and definitions including color, symmetry, line, shadow, story, interpretation
- **What Is Going On?:** Session 1 Getting the feel for the painting using examples in portrait, narrative, landscape, and modern painting. Students write down their initial observations
- **What Is Going On?:** Session 2. Compare notes from previous session for greater detail
- **Why Do You Feel That Way?** Session 1. Learning to describe/analyze your thought process from what you see. Various paintings; initial notes
- **Why Do You Feel That Way?:** Session 2 compare notes for greater detail

- **Art Gallery Visit:** Appreciate the real painting in museum setting
- **Guest Artist(s) Lecture:** Explaining how a painting is created. Getting the right look. Comparing artist's feeling and meaning of the work with the observers
- **Analyze Photographs:** Examine healthy people vs the patient using art concepts
- **Case Histories:** Clinical cases. Pictures. Looking for clues as to why patient is sick
- **Final Brushstrokes:** Put it all together. Examples of paintings and patients. What else do you see?