SMALL GROUP SESSION 15A  
December 13 or December 15  

Narratives Discussion/ Presentations

Readings for this week:  
Rita Charon’s “Narrative Medicine: A Model for Empathy, Reflection, Profession and Trust,” available at: http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/286/15/1897

Prepare by:
- Arriving in Jordan 1-5 at 12:30 PM today (bring lunch) for the showing of Wit
- Mentors: Please come prepared to complete students’ midterm grades. (Please see grading sheet at the end of this session.)
- If you are presenting this week, complete your presentation and bring handouts.

Mentors: If you can’t be here at 12:30, please borrow a copy of the film Wit so that you can watch it before this session. The narrative discussion will be based on the film.

Brief outline:

Section 1. Narratives discussion

Section 2. Presentation by three students

Section 3: Mentors meet to complete grading sheets

Next session will be January 3 or 5.
Small Group Session 15

Part 1. Narratives Discussion (60 minutes)

Objectives:
- to better understand patients’ experience of illness
- to consider how to improve our own care for very ill patients

The film *Wit* that you saw today is a patient’s narrative: her account of the personal meaning of her life, her illness and her encounters with medical providers. This discussion is largely borrowed from the *Wit* film project.

The questions that follow are to help guide your discussion of the film.

Part one: the patient

1. Describe Vivian Bearing.
2. How does her personality affect the care she received?
3. What would it feel like to have Vivian as a patient?
4. How does she experience her illness?
5. How does she grow or change in the course of her illness?
6. What alleviates her suffering in the course of the film?

Part two: the medical providers

1. Are Dr. Posner and Dr. Kelekian like actual physicians, or do they seem stereotyped to you?
2. In what ways did Dr. Posner and Dr. Kelekian provide admirable care?
3. In what ways was Dr. Posner’s and Dr. Kelekian’s care ultimately inadequate for Vivian Bearing?
4. When did you realize that there was a problem in the care Vivian Bearing was receiving?
5. How did the care provided by Susie Monahan differ from that of Dr. Posner and Kelekian?
6. Why is Susie Monahan more comfortable than Dr. Jason Posner in discussing “the meaning of life garbage”?
7. Describe how Susie Monahan exhibited empathy and compassion.

Part three: overview:

1. How has this film helped you understand how patients experience severe illness and dying?
2. How might it affect how you interact with patients in the future?
3. How does hearing the patient’s narrative (story) affect how you see patients? How does it affect how you interact with them?
Part 2. **Interviewing project presentations:** (45 minutes)

Today, the last 3 students will present their research talks on interviewing and the physician-patient relationship. Bring a 1-2 page handout for each member of your group, including your mentors. The handout should include references.

This talk will be graded and is worth 15 points toward your mid-semester grade. Mentors will assign points based on:

- Depth and quality of research: 5 points
- Organization and clarity of presentation: 5 points
- Difficulty of topic/insight/creative teaching: 2 points
- Handout clear and helps teach the topic: 2 points
- References present and appropriate: 1 point

Part 3: **Mentor grading session:**

**Mentors:** please meet TODAY after the students leave and complete the attached mid-year grading sheets. Please fax or send them to Robin (3-9697) this week.

Thank you.
POM1 Mentor Mid-year Grading Sheet

Student’s name: _______________________  Date: __________________

Mentors’ names: _______________________           __________________________

Attendance and participation: ___ (up to 58 points)
Videotaped SP interview presentation: ___ (up to 10 points)
Mentor evaluation of videotaped SPI: ___ (up to 5 points)
Presentation of interviewing special topic: ___ (up to 15 points)
Hospital interview write-up #2 (session 5 or 6): ___ (1 point)
Patient narrative from session 5 or 6 hosp. int.: ___ (1 point)

Self-evaluations (2 completed interviewing process evaluation forms) from practice videotaped
SP interview (turned in session 8) ___ (2 points)
Self-evaluations (2 completed interviewing process evaluation forms) from graded videotaped SPI ___ (2 points)
Hospital interview write-up #3 (session 11 or 12): ___ (up to 2 points)
Hospital interview write-up #4 (session 13 or 14): ___ (up to 2 points)
Total: ___ (up to 98 points)