

MCPHS

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE of PHARMACY *and* HEALTH SCIENCES

ELA 032.B: Exploring the health sciences through film

Fall 2013

(Subject to change)

Course Information

ELA 032.B: Exploring the health sciences through film

Credits: 3

Location: Fennel 316

Schedule: Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:20

Instructor

Jeff McClelland

Office: International office

Contact: jeff.mcclelland@mcphs.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:20 – 9:50 or by appointment

Course Description

This class will use film as a way to explore cultural, ethical and medical issues in the health sciences. Class discussions and assignments will focus on surface level issues such as idiomatic language and plot as well as deeper issues such as representations of culture, health care, and disease. Students will examine various ways of interacting in healthcare settings, gain insights into multiple aspects of healthcare cultures, and develop conversational, presentation and writing practices through course activities.

Course Textbook

All class readings will be accessible online

Course Materials

- 2 folders (one for holding materials and one for keeping your academic journal)
- 1 notebook for taking notes

Course Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the the health issues, events and vocabulary presented in the films
- Analyze and reflect on health science issues raised in the films and materials both through writing and oral discussion.
- Conduct a survey around an issue explored through the films and present findings in a formal presentation.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING AND TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

Class requirements and assignments

Quizzes	40.00%
You will take 3 quizzes, each one of them assessing your understanding of events and vocabulary from one of the films as well as your understanding of the health science issues raised in the film and the class materials. There will be no opportunities for making up a quiz if you are absent, but your lowest score of the three quizzes will be dropped.	
Research survey project and presentation	20.00%
In small groups, you will conduct a survey on a health issue discussed in a movie. Your group will develop a survey, interview people outside the class, and report your findings to the class.	
Academic journal	20.00%
You will be assigned short writing assignments in which you will analyze and/or reflect on issues from the films and readings. Four times during the semester I will collect and grade your journal writing assignments. Journal writing assignments must be completed on time. I will mark them down one letter grade for each class meeting that they are late and I will not accept journal writing assignments that are more than one week late.	
Participation	20.00%
Discussing issues and ideas is a hallmark of the American college classroom, and you will be evaluated on your contributions to class discussion. Excellent participation will be demonstrated by deep thinking and understanding of the plot and issues in the movies, effective use of turn taking strategies, and engagement with the ideas of other students. Participating in class - both through speaking and active listening - is a key to succeeding in this class and to improving you communication skills.	

Scores	Grades	Points	Description
93~100	A	4	Excellent
90~92	A-	3.67	
87~89	B+	3.33	Good (Above average)
83~86	B	3	
80~82	B-	2.67	
77~79	C+	2.33	Average
73~76	C	2	
70~72	C-	1.67	
60~69	D	1	Below Average
< 60	F	0	Fail

All 4 major assignments above will receive a letter grade which will then be averaged according to their weight into a final grade by converting them into points and rounding them to the nearest value.

SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

Week/Film	Topics and Readings	Major Assignments and Assessments
Week 1 Rain Man	Introductions and syllabus overview Asperger's Syndrome	
Week 2 Rain Man	Who's on first?	
Week 3 Rain Man	Critiquing representations of disability	Quiz
Week 4 Contagion	Flu outbreaks and pandemics	
Week 5 Contagion	Tracking outbreaks	
Week 6 Contagion	Analyzing plausibility in the film	Quiz
Week 7 Supersize me	Fast food culture	
Week 8 Supersize me	Conducting a survey Analyzing data	
Week 9 Supersize me	Presenting data	Student presentations
Week 10 Patch Adams	The Gesundheit Institute	
Week 11 Patch Adams	Patch Adam's vision Reevaluating the doctor-patient relationship	
Week 12 Patch Adams	Discussing quotes from the film	Quiz
Week 13 An Inconvenient Truth	Global Warming	
Week 14 Wrap up	Panel Discussions Reflections	

CLASS POLICY

This section will give some details on my expectations for classroom behavior. Because you are preparing for a professional career, I expect that you will treat being a student as a job. If you showed up late for work, or missed work without an excuse, you would probably be fired. I expect that you treat this class as a professional commitment. This means that you should show up for each class, on time, with all the necessary materials and assignments, ready to do your job.

Attendance Policy

The Policy of MCPHS International and the English Language Academy (ELA) requires regular and punctual attendance in order for a student to satisfy course requirements. Accordingly, students are expected and required to attend all regularly scheduled ELA classes in which they are enrolled. Any student who fails to attend 6 regularly scheduled classes for any course will fail the course.

Attendance records will be based on sign-in sheets that will be circulated during each class. It is the responsibility of the student to sign his or her name at the appropriate place on the attendance sheet, at the beginning of class, and each student who fails to do so will be considered absent. The standards of academic integrity apply to this policy.

Arrival in class after the scheduled starting time constitutes one instance of lateness. Latecomers (those arriving 1 – 10 minutes after the start of class) will incur .33 of an absence. In other words, if a student is late to class three times, he or she earns one absence. If a student is more than 10 minutes late, s/he will be marked absent for the day.

Students will receive a written warning when they violate the absence policy (i.e., exceeds the maximum allowable number of classes) in a particular class. In that event, the student will receive an e-mail from the Associate Director of ESL's Office, notifying him or her that he or she has failed the course.

Cell Phones

Cell phones should be turned off and not used in the classroom. If I see you using one, I will take away points from your participation grade.

Academic Integrity

"Students are expected to abide by the College's Academic Dishonesty Policy as explained in the MCPHS Student Handbook. Plagiarism is considered a violation of this policy. Plagiarism is defined as submitting another person's work as one's own without proper acknowledgment or using the words or ideas of others without crediting the source of those words or ideas." (From the MCPHS 2012-2013 College Catalog)

Students are responsible for being familiar with the policy and procedures the College uses to deal with plagiarism and academic dishonesty. The consequences for plagiarism in LIB 104/ELA 065 can range from failing an assignment to failing a course. All cases of plagiarism will be reported and recorded in a student's school record by the Dean of Students office.

Students must abide by the Academic Policies and Procedures set forth in the MCPHS College Catalog. Important information regarding Excused Absence Approval, Disability Support Services for students, Academic Honesty and Plagiarism and other academic policies is set forth in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the MCPHS Catalog <https://my.mcphs.edu/CollegeCatalog>. Students must read, understand, and comply with all of these policies and procedures.