

Human Kindness: A Clinical Thread for the revamped Clinical Foundations course to run throughout the four year curriculum

Year One: (Each session is 60-90 minutes in length and includes lunch)

Quarter 1: Human Kindness: A Philosophical, Moral, and Religious Overview (lecture and small group sessions on defining kindness vs. compassion, empathy, sympathy, charity, indebtedness and pity; provide “tools to kindness” and awareness of one’s interactions (e.g. handshakes, hellos, acts of kindness reviewed on a daily basis) (Aaron Kheriaty)

Quarter 2: Film: “Wit” with a group discussion regarding its content: lack of sensitivity, inability to “connect” in a humane manner, loneliness of the ill, etc.). Have students record their thoughts on the film in a brief paragraph – save these for year three to redistribute. (Guy Micco from UCSF)

Quarter 3: Neuroscience and neurobiology of human kindness (use of MRI analysis, etc. – consider John Decety)

Quarter 4: Prose: Mortality (Atul Gawande) (?)

Year Two: (Each session is 60-90 minutes in length and includes lunch)

Quarter 1: Awareness: Understanding the unspoken meaning of body language. (?)

Quarter 2: Art: Painting: (Luke Fildes “The Doctor” – but perhaps also the paintings of Wyeth (Christina’s World), Hopper (Nighthawks), Seurat (Outing on the Island of the Grand Jatte) that all have a strong element of human isolation – absence of “awareness”. (?)

Quarter 3: Music/Dance: Music of possibly Judy Collins, Carol King, and/or Laura Nyro OR expressive dance performance. (?)

Quarter 4: Visual Arts: Photography of Diane Arbus (possibly the photographs from the “Life” magazine essay on the country doctor (?)

Year Three: Intersession: 90 minutes including lunch: Film: consider reshooting parts of “Wit” with a discussion now given the perspective of the first 2.5 years of medical school. (Other film to consider: Pay it Forward (Kevin Spacey on how one learned to become more aware, more kind) (?)

Year Four: Intersession: 90 minutes including lunch: Prose and poetry: Gabriel: A Poem (Ed Hirsch on the loss of his son.) Death Be Not Proud (John Gunther – on the loss of his son); Einstein’s Dream (Alan Lightman – brief vignettes on the various ways in which time can be envisioned) (Pam Schaff – UCSF)