

Voices in Pandemic Module

Sept 2020 through June 2020

Overview

How do stories change the way we remember social narratives? How does fiction work as a form of resistance? Is there an ethical way to accomplish Emily Dickinson's admonition to "tell the truth but tell it slant"? In this section of the course "Moral Moments in Medicine," we will look at short texts that focus on times of social and medical crisis and discuss the ways we can use fiction and creative non-fiction to nudge the needle toward equity.

Structure

Dr. Mantri will post readings to Canvas as least 3 weeks before the class session and send reminder emails the day before the class with Zoom link. Students should alert facilitators via email at least 48 hrs before any planned absence (i.e. by Sunday 6pm). Students can miss up to 2 sessions and still get credit by doing a short reflection and emailing to facilitators within 1 week of the missed session (i.e. by the following Tuesday 6pm).

Weekly Schedule

29 Sept 2020: "The Danger of a Single Story" (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)

6:00-6:15 - Introductions, Icebreaker (something you'd read recently which moved you)

6:15-6:30 - Course overview, expectations, questions from students, poll regarding November date

6:30-6:40 - Clip from Ted Talk "The Danger of a Single Story"

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story

6:40-6:55 - Discussion: What types of "single stories" do we tell ourselves about covid? About health care? About current events?

6:55-7:00 - Wrap-up.

27 Oct 2020: Fiction - "Inventory" (Carmen Maria Machado)

6:00-6:10 - Opening exercise: Two students read aloud one vignette each (allow them to choose)

6:10-6:30 - Discussion - how does this story move? Change? How does the narrator move? Change? Why the vignette style?

6:30-6:35 - Writing prompt: Write a vignette of something that happened to you this week.

6:35-6:45 - Breakout rooms pair/share

6:45-6:55 - In the larger group: what did it feel like to listen? What did it feel like to be heard?

6:55-7:00 - Wrap-up, tell students to save their vignette for next week

24 Nov 2020/1 Dec 2020: Autobiographical Fiction - selection from *The Citadel* (AJ Cronin)

6:00-6:10 - Opening exercise: Take your vignette from last month and fictionalize it

6:10-6:30 - Discussion: What surprised you with this text? What is similar to medicine in 2020, what is different? Connect to the Flint water crisis if students don't make that connection themselves

6:30-6:45 - Breakout rooms pair/share (hopefully the same partners as before)

6:45-6:55 - Large group: How was the fictionalized vignette different from the "true" vignette

6:55-7:00 - Wrap-up

26 Jan 2021: Clinician Memoir - selection from *The Beauty in Breaking* (Michele Harper)

6:00-6:10 - Opening exercise: have a student read from the piece "Dominic"

6:10-6:30 - Discussion: how does this differ from autobiographical fiction? What does memoir or essay allow that fiction does not? Introduce concept of author as authority. Who has authority in this scene? From what does authority derive? How does authority differ (or not) from power?

6:30-6:40 - Interview clip / potentially have her speak

23 Feb 2021: Patient Memoir - selection from *The Cancer Journals* (Audre Lorde)

6:00-6:10 - Opening exercise:

6:10-6:40 - Discussion - intersectional identities; Lorde as a black feminist lesbian poet. How does Lorde speak for (or not) her identities?

23 Mar 2021: Manifesto - selection from *And the Band Played On* (Randy Schilts)

27 Apr 2021: TBD

25 May 2021: Fiction - "Speech Sounds" (Octavia Butler)

6:00-6:10 - Opening exercise:

6:10-6:40 - Discussion: connect back to pandemic fiction from October; note the difference between pandemic fiction and post-apocalyptic fiction. Connection with others, rebuilding, optimism

6:40-7:00 - Course wrap-up; let students know about other Trent Center opportunities at Duke