Applications will be accepted beginning February 1st of Year III on a first-come, first-served basis.

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REPORT TO: KAM 100 B at 9:30 AM

PREREQUISITE: None

DURATION: 4 weeks

DATES OFFERED: Once each year in the Spring
Rotation scheduled: March/April

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 12 maximum
VISITING STUDENTS: Will be considered

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students will be able to:
1. Discuss illness narratives from theoretical and experiential perspectives, thereby gaining insight into the singularity of individual suffering within a social and cultural context.
2. Compose an illness narrative of his/her own.
3. Read closely, discuss, and write about works of fiction, poetry, memoir, film, in the service of enhancing listening and interpretive skills.
4. Interview patients and write reflectively or creatively about clinical experiences.
5. Read and respond critically to each other's written work.

SUPERVISION:
100% Faculty

DESCRIPTION:
Through self-reflective clinical and fiction writing, close reading of fiction and illness narratives, and immersion in theoretical topics in literary studies, students will develop narrative and literary skills that enhance clinical effectiveness. By learning new ways to listen, attend, and respond to patients through studies of literature, pathographies, clinical texts, and creative writing, students will be able to incorporate textual and interpretive skills into medical practice. Readings will include works by Arthur Frank, Kathryn Montgomery Hunter, William Maxwell, Rita Charon, Wayne Booth, Atul Gawande, Abraham Verghese, Jean-Dominique Bauby, and others.

EVALUATION:
Students will be informed of expectations and methods of evaluation during orientation on the first day of the rotation. Students are required to attend discussions (6-8 hours/week) and complete all reading and written assignments. Student's performance is assessed by the faculty who will write evaluations based on completion of assignments, class participation, and written work. Students will be given feedback on their performance on an individual basis and will also receive feedback from their colleagues in the class.

Attendance and Illness Policy
In order to insure adequate clinical exposure, no more than 1 day of excused absences (to include official Holidays) can be accepted during this elective. This policy does not imply that absences are guaranteed; absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty. Absence due to illness must be reported to the faculty or his/her designee as soon as possible. In case of extended absence (2 days or more), a note from a physician (who is not a relative) is required and the absence will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. A physician note may be requested for any absence, at the discretion of the faculty.

Students will generally be required to make up days before a passing grade can be assigned. All absences must be excused and any planned absence must be registered with the preceptor prior to the first day of the elective. Students should take vacation time if he/she anticipates a need for more than 1 absence during this elective. USMLE and BLS/ACLS will not be considered excused absences.