I have learned two lessons in my life:
First, there are no sufficient literary, psychological, or historical answers to human tragedy, only moral ones. Second, just as despair can come to one another only from other human beings, hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings.

~Elie Wiesel

SPIRITUALITY IN MEDICINE: ELECTIVE COURSE

Course Director: Patricia Sexton, DHEd, Associate Professor, Family Medicine
Faculty: Margaret Wilson, DO, Chair and Professor, Family Medicine

This elective explores spirituality in medicine and spiritually / culturally competent care. Topics include patient values, belief systems, cultural and psychosocial factors in health practices, the nature of suffering and self-care concepts.

Educational Goals
By the end of this elective course, students will:
1) Be aware of concepts of community, spirituality and culture as related to difficult clinical cases.
2) Have developed skills associated with the delivery of compassionate care (empathy / altruism).
3) Understand professional boundaries / ethical issues associated with the delivery of spiritually / culturally competent care.
4) Explore personal spirituality / cultural influences on patient interactions (e.g., doctor-patient relationship)
5) Understand collaborative interdisciplinary relationships
6) Develop plans for self-care

Required Texts: (The texts are available to check out in the Family Medicine department)
Closing the Chart: A Dying Physician Examines Family, Faith, and Medicine by Steven D. Hsi, MD, Jim Belshaw, and Beth Corbin-His
Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom
The Soul of a Doctor edited by Susan Portes, Sachin Jain, Gordon Harper, and Jerome Groopman
Kitchen Table Wisdom by Rachel Naomi Remen

Assessment: Reflective writing entries will be reviewed with the course director/faculty and assessed for format, clarity and evidence of learning. Preparation and participation will be heavily considered in grade assignment.

Grading: Pass / Fail

Prerequisites: Students must be in academic good standing.

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