

IDS 1623 Honors Quest 1: The Anatomy of a Story

Class #23395 (3 credit hours)



Image: <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/centers/bioethics/humanities/education/certificate-program>

“Medicine is the most humanistic of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities.”
Edmund Pellegrino

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Class Meetings: T 4 R 4-5

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Quest Theme: How Stories Shape Us

General Education: 4,000 words

Course Description

In his book, *When Breath Becomes Air*, physician and patient, Paul Kalanithi writes, “Science may provide the most useful way to organize empirical, reproducible data, but its power to do so is predicated on its inability to grasp the most central aspects of human life: hope, fear, love, hate, beauty, envy, honor, weakness, striving, suffering, virtue.” The humanities provide the link between the experiences of human life and science, and storytelling is fundamental to the human experience. Through storytelling we share our own experiences and hear the experiences of others, those like us and those who are very different. Storytelling, too, is fundamental to medicine as it tells of the intersections of illness and our lives. Many health professionals and patients share their stories to connect the practice with the need to understand what it means to be sick, and by putting experiences into words, we learn about the human condition. In this course, rather than learning the anatomy of a body, we will learn the anatomy of stories about medicine in film, literature, non-fiction, poetry, music, and art to answer the following essential questions: How is our understanding of the human condition constructed through and by the stories that we hear and tell, and how can these stories help us understand health, suffering, illness, disability, disease, or medical ethics?

Because future medical professionals need to be creative and analytical, empathetic and intuitive, and ultimately skilled critical thinkers and communicators, immersion in the humanities will foster these abilities. To do this we will explore what medicine means from the experience of the patient and the experience of the health professional. To add to our understanding, we will have guest lectures with practicing physicians, artists, therapists, and other health professionals who will share their own stories

of health and healing. We will also visit exhibitions that exemplify medicine and the body. Ultimately, instead of focusing on the illness and the treatment, we will use the humanities to help us comprehend the emotional experience of the world of medicine. Through these stories and through the voices of authors, we will discover just what it means to be both a patient and a health professional, what it means to be human.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Identify, describe, and explain the methodologies used across humanities disciplines to examine essential questions about the storytelling and the examined life.
- Analyze how texts across disciplines and genres and populations represent the relationships between storytelling, medicine, and culture.
- Develop and present clear and effective oral and written work that demonstrates critical engagement with course texts, films, and experiential learning activities.
- Connect course content with their intellectual, personal, and professional lives at UF and beyond.
- Reflect on their own and others' experience with medicine in Think Pieces and a final analytical essay.

Required Texts

Required Purchases

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Never Let Me Go* (novel)

Kalanithi, Paul. *When Breath Becomes Air* (memoir)

Small, David. *Stitches* (graphic novel)

The following articles, excerpts, films, and short stories for the class will be made available on Canvas or in class:

Articles

Cole, Thomas, and Ronald Carson, "Introducing Medical Humanities" *Medical Humanities: An Introduction* (20 pp.)

Davis, Lennard J. "Constructing Normalcy." (15 pp.)

Scott McCloud, *Understanding Comics* (selections) (16 pp.)

Lewis, B. "Narrating Our Sadness with a Little Help from the Humanities." (9 pp.)

Non-Fiction

Gottlieb, Lori. *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* (excerpts: "The Beginning of Knowing" and "Snapshots of Ourselves" (11 pp.)

Webb & Brawley. "Chief Complaint" *How We Do Harm* (16 pp.)

Short Stories

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wallpaper" (10 pp.)

Jamison, Leslie. "The Empathy Exams" (26 pp.)

Selzer, Richard. "Imelda" (14 pp.)

Williams, William Carlos, "The Use of Force" (3 pp.)

Poetry

McManus, James, "Spike Logic"

Hieu Minh Nguyen, "Type II"

Kenyon, Jane. "Having it Out with Melancholy"

Art

Kahlo, Frida. "Broken Body" and "Without Hope"

Munch. Edvard. *The Scream* and *Death in the Sickroom*

Videos

Wit (2001)

Star Trek: The Next Generation: "Ethics"

Recommended writing guide: Williams, Joseph: *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace*

Experiential Learning Activities

For experiential learning opportunities, we will visit the Harn Museum to look at images of the body in medicine, sickness, and health. We may also have classroom visits from practicing medical professionals, such physicians, who will share their own stories and the importance of stories in their careers.

Assignments and Grading

The table below provides descriptions of all major assignments.

	Description	Points
Exams	Three in-class multiple-choice and short-answer examinations to demonstrate knowledge of humanities methodologies and engagement with course materials (100 points each)	300
Think Pieces	Engagement with readings, self-reflection, and questions relating to the texts, storytelling, and medicine. (500+ wds) (4 x 50 points)	200
Interview	Interviewing a person with a physical, emotional, learning, or psychiatric disability, includes reflection.	100
Experiential Learning Activity	A Harn museum visit with activity.	75
Final Analytical Essay	Research-based analysis essay that explores the concepts of storytelling, narratives, and medicine. (2000 wds) Peer review (25 pts) <i>Essay feedback provided before the end of finals week</i>	25 175
Reading Quizzes	Ten pop quizzes that demonstrate engagement with the materials (10 x 12.5)	125
Total Points		1000

Successful assignments will meet the word count minimum and illustrate a careful regard for spelling, grammar, and formatting and citation guidelines. Do not rely on your instructor for copy-editing, even on first drafts.

Rubric for Grading Think Pieces (ThP)

Think Pieces are an opportunity for students to synthesize, reflect upon, and begin to analyze materials and experiential activities assigned for this class. They also provide an opportunity to engage with the materials in a personal way. The following rubric will be used for grading ThPs.

Rubric	Points
Thorough on-point, thoughtful take on the materials.	Full credit (45-50)
Competent and complete but may lack clarity, specific detail, and/or development of thoughts.	Partial credit (15-45)
Incomplete, poorly written, shows little involvement with the materials.	Some credit (1-15)
No submission	0

Grading Scale

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	4.0	94-100	940-1000	C	2.0	74-76	740-769
A-	3.67	90-93	900-939	C-	1.67	70-73	700-739
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	84-86	840-869	D	1.0	64-66	640-669
B-	2.67	80-83	800-839	D-	0.67	60-63	600-639
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

Writing Requirement (WR 4,000)

For courses that confer WR credit, the course grades now have two components: To receive writing credit, a student must receive a grade of “C” or higher. You **must** turn in all assignments totaling 2,000 words to receive credit for writing 4,000 words. The writing requirement ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning.

PLEASE NOTE: a grade of “C-” **will not** confer credit for the University Writing Requirement.

The instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on the student's written assignments with respect to content, organization and coherence, argument and support, style, clarity, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics. Conferring credit for the University Writing Requirement, this course requires that papers conform to the following assessment rubric. More specific rubrics and guidelines applicable to individual assignments may be delivered during the semester.

General Education Writing Assessment Rubric

More detailed evaluative rubrics will be provided in the prompt for each assignment.

	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
CONTENT	Papers exhibit at least some evidence of ideas that respond to the topic with complexity, critically evaluating and synthesizing sources, and provide at	Papers either include a central idea(s) that is unclear or off- topic or provide only minimal or inadequate discussion of ideas. Papers

	least an adequate discussion with basic understanding of sources	may also lack sufficient or appropriate sources.
ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE	Documents and paragraphs exhibit at least some identifiable structure for topics, including a clear thesis statement but may require readers to work to follow progression of ideas.	Documents and paragraphs lack clearly identifiable organization, may lack any coherent sense of logic in associating and organizing ideas, and may also lack transitions and coherence to guide the reader.
ARGUMENT AND SUPPORT	Documents use persuasive and confident presentation of ideas, strongly supported with evidence. At the weak end of the Satisfactory range, documents may provide only generalized discussion of ideas or may provide adequate discussion but rely on weak support for arguments.	Documents make only weak generalizations, providing little or no support, as in summaries or narratives that fail to provide critical analysis.
STYLE	Documents use a writing style with word choice appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline. Sentences should display complexity and logical sentence structure. At a minimum, documents will display a less precise use of vocabulary and an uneven use of sentence structure or a writing style that occasionally veers away from word choice or tone appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline.	Documents rely on word usage that is inappropriate for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences may be overly long or short with awkward construction. Documents may also use words incorrectly.
MECHANICS	Documents rely on word usage that is inappropriate for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences may be overly long or short with awkward construction. Documents may also use words incorrectly.	Papers contain so many mechanical or grammatical errors that they impede the reader's understanding or severely undermine the writer's credibility.

Weekly Schedule

The schedule of readings is tentative and subject to change. Check Canvas for any updates.

	Week	Tuesday	Thursday
Introduction to the Quest, Narratives, and the Medical Humanities An introduction to the Quest program and an introduction to what it means to study the humanities. The readings and the poem introduce the importance of narrative in medicine			
	1		8/21 Introduction to the course and activity In-class activity and discussion
	2	8/26 In-class activity and discussion Reading Due: "What Value Do the Humanities Have?"-Butler Reading Due: "Introducing the Medical Humanities" – Cole and Carson	8/28 In-class activity and discussion Reading Due: "Imelda" –Selzer Reading Due: "Spike Logic" – McManus "Type II" – Nguyen

Module 1: Bodies			
An exploration of Kalanithi's story of his life as a doctor and his illness. What happens when a doctor becomes ill? The study of the importance of seeing bodies, are introduced to art and arts in medicine and an introduction to the theory of narrative structures.			
	3	9/2 In-class activity and discussion Reading Due: Kalanithi Prologue – Page 54 (end at “The first birth I witnessed”)	9/4 Activity Writing workshop Think Piece 1 Due
	4	9/9 Out of Class Activity: Harn Museum	9/11 Arts in Medicine Presentation (tentative) Reading Due: Kalanithi Page 54 – Part II – 166 (end at “On a crystalline spring morning”)
	5	9/16 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: “The Empathy Exams” – Jamison	9/18 Reading Due: Kalanithi—remainder of book
	6	9/23 Reading Due: Costello – “The Implications of Plot Lines in Illness and Memoir”	9/25 Examination Preparation--Review Module 1 Examination
Module 2: Minds			
What does it mean to be “normal”? When we talk about mental health, what do we mean? Mental illness is, quite often, an invisible and highly stigmatized disease, so how can stories help us change that? Gottleib introduces the power of communication and our own stories in order to heal. How can sharing stories help ourselves and others? Why do stories matter?			
	7	9/30 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: “Constructing Normalcy” – Davis	10/2 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: “The Yellow Wallpaper” – Gilman
	8	10/7 In class activity and discussion Graphic Novels Reading Due: Small – “I Was Eleven”	10/9 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: Small – “I Was Fourteen and Fifteen” Think Piece 2 Due

	9	10/14 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: Gottlieb – “The Beginning of Knowing and Snapshots of Ourselves” Reading Due: Kenyon – “Having it Out with Melancholy”	10/16 Continued discussion Guest Lecture: Dr. Hahn (UF Medical School)
	10	10/21 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: “Narrating Our Sadness” – Lewis	10/23 Module 2 Examination
Module 3: Ethics What is the morality and the ethics of experiments and patients as subjects? What are the responsibilities of physicians and healthcare? What does Ishiguro and the ethics of science?			
	11	10/28 Reading Due: Williams – “The Use of Force” and Webb & Brawley – “Chief Complaint” Interview Due	10/30 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: Ishiguro (chs. 1-6) Think Piece 3 due
	12	11/4 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: Ishiguro (chs. 7-13)	11/6 In class activity and discussion Reading Due: Ishiguro (chs. 8-19)
	13	11/11 Veteran’s Day: No Class	11/13 Discussion Reading Due: Ishiguro (chs. 19-23) Writing Workshop
	14	11/18 Writing Workshop Think Piece 4 Due	11/20 Examination prep Module 3 Exam

	15	11/25 Thanksgiving: No Class	11/27 Thanksgiving: No Class
Module 4: My Contribution How is a selected story (art, film, fiction, non-fiction, graphic novel, or video game) a representation of the types of medical narratives introduced in the class?			
	16	12/2 Peer Review Due	

Policies

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. If a student misses more than **six** periods during a semester, he or she will fail the entire course. Missing class on a double period counts as **two** absences. **Only** those absences deemed [excused according to UF policy](#), including university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, illness, and religious holidays will be exempted from this policy. Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date that will be missed. After **two** unexcused absences, **50 points per absence** will be deducted from the final grade. As stated, after six absences (3 weeks of class), the student will fail the entire course.

Please Note: If students are absent, it is their responsibility to make themselves aware of all due dates. If absent due to a scheduled event, students are still responsible for turning assignments in on time.

Tardiness: If students enter class after roll has been called, they are late, which disrupts the entire class. **Two** instances of tardiness count as one absence.

Late Work and Make-Ups

For a student with a valid **excused** absence, homework and papers will be due by the next class period. Students who submit late work will receive a **10% per day** deduction.

Participation

Participation is a crucial part of success in this class. Students will be expected to work in *socially distanced or virtual* small groups and participate in group discussions and other in-class activities. Students should be prepared for unannounced quizzes or activities on the readings or classroom discussion. Students must be present for all in-class activities to receive credit for them. In-class work cannot be made up. Peer review sessions require that students provide constructive feedback about their peers' writing.

Reading is a necessary and important part of this class. Each of the readings has been selected to build your knowledge, test your assumptions, create a spark, or even cultivate a sustained interest. As such, by completing all the assigned readings, students will be able to provide a fulfilling engagement with the texts, to collaborate with their classmates, and to experience a truly dialectical classroom.

Decorum

Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

[The Honor Code](#) specifies behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class. Students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. Any violation of expected academic integrity will result in a minimum academic sanction of a failing grade on the assignment. **Any** alleged violations of the Student Honor Code will result in referral to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Course Credit Policies

Quest 1

Quest 1 courses are multidisciplinary explorations of essential questions about the human condition that are not easy to answer, but also not easy to ignore: What makes life worth living? What makes a society a fair one? How do we manage conflicts? Who are we in relation to other people or to the natural world? Quest 1 students grapple with the kinds of open-ended and complex intellectual challenges they will face as critical, creative, and self-reflective adults navigating a complex and interconnected world. They apply approaches from the humanities to mine works for evidence, create arguments, and articulate ideas.

Quest 1 + Course SLOs

	Quest 1 SLOs Students will be able to...	This Course's SLOs Students will be able to...	Assessment
Content	Identify, describe, and explain the history, theories, and methodologies used to examine essential questions about the human condition within and across the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course.	Identify, describe, and explain the ethical and empirical issues related to experiences in health, (dis)ability, mental illness, and access to health care through the lens of stories shared in art, literature, nonfiction, and film.	Class participation, in-class examinations, and response blogs.
Critical Thinking	Analyze and evaluate essential questions about the human condition using established practices appropriate for the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course.	Analyze and Evaluate diverse stories in the medical humanities, identity, and the examined life through diverse texts, images, and films by using close reading, critical analysis, and reflection.	Class participation, response blogs, interviews with reflections, and final analytical essay.
Communication	Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions in oral and written forms as appropriate to the relevant humanities disciplines incorporated into the course.	Develop and Present clear, organized, supported, and effective oral and written responses to course prompts.	Response blogs, interviews with reflections, and final analytical essay.
Connection	Connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond.	Connect own experiences with those of others, examine the intellectual development and reflect on the implications of the course materials, and reflect on the implications for future professions.	Response blogs, reflection with interviews, and final analytical essay.