

MCS Selective Art Observation and Diagnostic Medicine

Art observation and diagnostic medicine refers to the use of art and visual arts education to enhance medical students' observation skills, visual literacy, and ultimately, their diagnostic abilities. As the field of medicine grows more streamlined, physicians are spending less time with their patients. There is much evidence that this decrease in time, coupled with increased reliance on imaging and test results has can depersonalize the illness experience resulting in both emotional dissatisfaction and reduced accuracy of diagnosis. This course demonstrates how the humanities, including visual arts, can improve physicians' ability to "see" and interpret clinical information effectively.

Here is a example of what we will be doing in part:

<https://youtu.be/9iTu-IxUngc?si=tRkeXqarX650CNoJ>

Instructor

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Additional Faculty and Invited Speakers



Dr. Gina Polizzo, MD
Greenville Memorial
South Carolina



Dr. Vincent deLuise, MD
Yale School of Medicine

Syllabus

Detailed Description:

At first glance, there seems to be a chasm between the realms of art and medicine. The polarization of these crafts has deprived physicians of tools that are critical to advancing patient care. However, this divisiveness has not always existed: the great masters of the Renaissance were attuned to the inherent relationship between art and science. Accurate depictions of physical space and human anatomy fostered significant breakthroughs in physics, anatomy, and mathematics.

- In order to remain agile, it is critical that physicians hone their skills in particular areas of medical practice, such as in clinical diagnosis through the practice of observation, and the development of intuition, or gestalt. This effort will work to combat the technological advances and time constraints of modern medicine that tempt us to relinquish many of our clinical skills i.e. “conveyor belt medicine.” One of the most useful tools in the diagnostic arsenal is the power of the gaze. The practice of art observation will help students sharpen their visual acuity as well as visual literacy; in short, we will seek to enhance students’ ability to perceive visual information accurately, and to describe what they see. This will aim to

make students adept diagnosticians, and thus more efficient and precise in their medical practice. This selective aims to teach students how to observe, interpret, and communicate visual information, encouraging self-reflection and a humanistic understanding of medicine.

Method:

Here's a more detailed explanation of the scope of this course.

Medical training increasingly incorporates the humanities, including visual arts, to improve students' ability to "see" and interpret clinical information effectively. This is accomplished by the use of:

- **Observation Skills:** Medical students are trained to observe attentively through analyzing artworks, which helps them develop a keen eye for detail and pattern recognition.
- **Visual Literacy:** By studying art, students learn to identify and analyze facial expressions, body language, and contextual cues, which are crucial for patient assessment.
- **Training the Eye:** Based on the Visual Thinking Strategies methodology, we will use fine art (museum visit) to improve visual literacy and observation skills.
- **Creative Art:** We will have the opportunity to learn from an experienced artist and photographer how artists see and translate their vision into creative works.

Educational Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, you will:

1. Be more observant of your patients. This course will train your gaze by teaching you how to systematically observe visual arts.
2. Articulate visual information and observations in a clear and organized fashion, much akin to the sign out and patient presentation processes.
3. Become more self-aware of your inherent internal biases.
4. Increase empathy by analyzing pieces that depict the illness experience.

Topics and Program

Week One | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

An Introduction to Art Principles and Observation in Medicine

During this session, we will explore basic art elements and principles such as form/shape, line, color theory, and texture in order to equip students with the language necessary to formulate accurate descriptions of the art they observe.

Week Two | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Art Observation: In Practice

Creating and interpreting your own work of art. Learning how to draw with local artist Louis Puglisi.

Week Three | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Museum Visit

Wolff, B. 2018, January. "Want to Focus Your Attention? Go to a Museum." *Forbes Magazine*.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/benjaminwolff/2018/01/07/want-to-boost-your-career-go-to-a-museum/#2471e19c7d99>

Week Four | Thursday March 22 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM Grand Rounds with Dr. Vincent deLuise this session is by zoom.

Slow Looking: *Art and Observation in the Toolkit of Clinical Diagnosis*

Evaluation

The course is now P/F. Attendance and participation are required for each class.

Number of Students

Minimum 6

Maximum 12

Additional Resources:

1) Bowen He et al. The art of observation: a qualitative analysis of medical students' experiences | BMC Medical Education 2019 <https://bmcmededuc.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12909-019-1671-2>

2) Salvatore Mangione et al
The Art of Observation and the Observation of Art: Zadig in the Twenty-first Century.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30225766/>

3) Salvatore Mangione et al
The observation of art and the art of observing individuals with physical differences
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33982435/>

4) Carol Wellbery et al.
The Art of Observation: A Pedagogical Framework
Academic Medicine Dec 2015 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26164640>

5) This article by Gurwin et al is often cited.
Jaclyn Gurwin et al. A Randomized Controlled Study of Art Observation Training to Improve Medical Student Ophthalmology Skills - <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28781219/>

6) Observation as an Act Of Creation: The Art of Looking
<https://www.dailyartmagazine.com/observation-as-an-act-of-creation/>

7) Laura Moynahan et al., Applying art observation skills to standardized patients
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31266613/>

8) How to Use Your Eyes

This is a wonderful book by the artist and art teacher James Elkins of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Elkins also wrote the book What Painting Is, a brilliant exegesis of the alchemy of paint pigments.

Each chapter in this book How to Use Your Eyes is so valuable that it could be an experience episode in the course on *Stop! Look! Listen!*

How to Use your Eyes by James Elkins

<https://www.amazon.com/How-Your-Eyes-James-Elkins/dp/0415993636>

9) W.W. Campbell. Augenblickdoagnose.

Seminars in Neurology 1988

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9608614/>