

Course Syllabus

ARHM 3342 Last Writer's Project

Spring 2024

Time: Thursday 1:00pm-3:45pm

Room: CR 1.212

Instructor Information

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Course Modality and Expectations

Instructional Mode	All instruction and testing will be in a traditional in-person setting. Community-based engagement may be online.
Course Platform	All class materials, including assignments, due dates, and announcements will be posted on eLearning. If you experience trouble with your eLearning account, notify the teaching assistants and contact the eLearning help desk at (866) 588-3192 or at elarning@utdallas.edu . Community-based engagement may be delivered through MS Teams. Further information will be provided on eLearning.
Expectations	Attendance for the weekly seminar is mandatory. Each student is permitted one excused absence. Further absences, late arrivals, and early departures, for whatever reason, account as time taken from the course and may be subject to consequences. Attendance towards scheduled sessions with hospice patients will vary from individual to individual, depending on frequency and duration of call. Students should make all possible efforts to attend scheduled sessions, and avoid postponing, rescheduling, or canceling where possible. Given the potential online nature of the sessions with hospice patients, you are expected to have a working computer with access to the Internet, a webcam, and a microphone. During seminars and patient sessions, please avoid using your phone or other electronic devices. You may use your computer simultaneously during lecture to take notes and review pertinent materials. If special accommodations are necessary for your device(s), please notify the instructors and they will work with you to ensure your participation.
Asynchronous Learning Guidelines	Asynchronous instruction for the weekly seminar is not available. All volunteer-based activities will be conducted at each individual student's schedule, with regular progress determined with instructor approval.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Hours committed to in-person instruction determine the overall volunteer hours and receiving credit for the semester. This also includes engaging in group or other activities

during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures. Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.

Class Materials

The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student Accessibility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

(Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.)

Students may choose to volunteer with hospice patients in-person at a facility or their homes.

Course Prerequisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

N/A

Course Description

Students will develop a deeper appreciation of inter-generational challenges, aging, and the processes of death, dying, and grief, whilst simultaneously developing their communication and writing skills. Students will meet

weekly in a small-group seminar with their instructor and class facilitators to discuss shared readings and palliative care. With a focus on empathic listening, clinical interviewing, and interpersonal growth, this class combines psychology, medicine and the humanities and is geared toward students entering health professions. Students will be paired one-on-one with hospice (end-of-life) patients from a local Hospice and Palliative Care organization. They will meet in-person or virtually and regularly engage in biographical interviews and narrative storytelling activities. At the completion of the course, students will create a manuscript which will be published into a memoir and distributed back into the community for the patient and their family.

This is a service-learning course that aims to combine community service with academic instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and personal and civic responsibility.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Explore hospice, palliative, and end-of-life care from a medical and logistical context.
- Develop skills to listen and converse with end-of-life patients, and in coordinated support with their loved ones and healthcare team.
- Acquire understanding on narrative medicine and longitudinal frameworks, and the perspectives they can play on dying and death.
- Collaborate to create individualized “living memoirs” as a means to express grief and provide ease and comfort.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Required Texts

There will be six short readings featured in this course, which will be divided and assigned to groups to read and present to the class. **Please do not purchase these before we discuss assignments for them. They will be provided.** All of the following are by Barbara Karnes, RN:

Gone from My Sight
A Time to Live
Pain at End of Life
How Do I Know You?
The Eleventh Hour
My Friend, I Care

Required Materials

N/A

COVID Guidelines

Because students will be volunteering closely with vulnerable hospice patients, they are required to take proper precautions before meeting in-person. Students are highly encouraged to get the COVID vaccination and booster shots. Students will be required to wear a mask while meeting hospice patients if not vaccinated. Meeting modality(in-person or virtual) depends on patient preference and not on the student.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Grading Policy

All assignments and activities will be graded on a credit/no-credit basis. Students must complete all assignments according to guidelines and deadlines in order to receive credit for the class.

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Attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed 3 unexcused absences. Excused absences must be given at least **one week prior** to the missed class, and are given at instructor digression. The full 2 hour 45 minute class time will not be used. Class will only be an hour long from 1:00pm-2:00pm, but as the semester progresses, students may use the room until 3:45pm for monitored memoir writing.

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Each late or unsubmitted assignment will count as an unexcused absence. Late assignments can include, but are not limited to: requested forms or submissions, discussion board prompts, monthly volunteer hour submission, and individual/group projects.

Students are required to log their community service hours in a documentation form every month (January, February, March, April, May), complete any discussion boards on e-learning, conduct meetings with their

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assigned patient every week and transcribe interviews into a manuscript by the final submission deadline.
NOTE: students who miss a week of lecture are still expected to complete that week's assignments on time.

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Community Service Component

Fulfilling components of community engagement is not scored, but failure to complete documentation will be reported and may result in jeopardy of credit.

Please make an effort to schedule regular meetings with your patients/families (avg. 1hr/week) and to attend and be on time to all scheduled meetings outside of class. Log all volunteer hours, including transportation and interview transcription time.

Failure to submit an adequate final assignment for print/publication may also result in loss of credit and an incomplete grade for the course.

Academic Calendar

Date	Assignments Due	Agenda Assignments To-Do
WK1 01/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read syllabus, come with questions • <i>Fill Out:</i> Student survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brief Introduction-</i> Yilong Peng • <i>Reading:</i> Communicating with Patients, Caregivers, and Volunteers • <i>Guest Lecture:</i> Hospice 101, given by TOH • Read example books • Go over syllabus • <i>Fill Out:</i> Student survey, volunteer form, Indemnification form
WK2 01/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reading:</i> Communicating with Patients, Caregiver, and Volunteers • Read example books • Due: Volunteer forms • Due: Discussion Board 1 (intro) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Lecture:</i> Effective communication and First Meeting • <i>Reading:</i> My Friend, I Care Schedule and prepare for first interviews

WK10 03/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due: Cover design assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reading:</i> Debate prep materials on elearning
WK11 04/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reading:</i> Debate prep materials on elearning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lecture from Dr. Gossin</i> • <i>Debate:</i> The Intersection of the Medical System and Religion • Midterm check-ins Fill out: March volunteer documentation form
WK12 04/11		Lecture from Dr. Gossin
WK13 04/18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lecture:</i> manuscript formatting • In-depth check in
WK14 04/25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lecture:</i> Grammar and Syntax in Writing • <i>Submit:</i> Group Project Presentations
WK15 05/02		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on final manuscript Turn in March volunteer form documentation
		FINAL MEMOIR: Due May 3rd at 11:59 PM