

# EMPATHY



# MEDICINE & THE HUMAN CONDITION

**NEW COURSE SPRING 2014 – CATALOGUE # CLCS 3720 – T & H  
10:45-12:05**

**PENDING APPROVAL: FULFILLS GEN ED HUMANITIES (HF) REQUIREMENT**

- Empathy has been on the decline among college students over the last 30 years (Konrath 2010).
- Medical schools are increasingly seeking applicants with greater empathic, listening, and critical thinking skills (*New York Times*, April 15, 2012).
- Changes to MCAT 2015 reflect these concerns by placing greater emphasis on critical thinking and understanding.

This class can help you rise to the challenges ahead. In this course we will closely read and critically analyze works of fiction and non-fiction dealing with healing and empathy (a novel about the first medical encounters between Japan and the West, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century diary of schizophrenia, a science fiction story about mind-control drugs, a case study of American and Hmong medical beliefs, and Western and Eastern works on psychology and caring for the ill, among others). **We will also practice hands-on, in-class exercises that expand our skills in empathy and deep listening** (working with silence and breath awareness, listening carefully to each other and to texts). Through these approaches, we will refine critical analysis skills, cultivate our own capacity for empathy and attention, and explore how cross-cultural encounters make us more responsive to the suffering of others and to our common humanity.

**INFORMATION: Contact instructor Dr. Joseph Metz, [joseph.metz@utah.edu](mailto:joseph.metz@utah.edu)**