

ENG 281: Literature and Medicine
Arts in Healthcare Group Project

The documentary *Healing Words*, which records some of the efforts to use expressive arts in the medical setting of Shands Hospital in Florida, returns again and again to the question, does poetry heal? For this project you will have the opportunity to consider that question, and more broadly the role the literary arts might play in the practice of medicine. In small groups, you will be working to design and implement a creative intervention using the literary arts (writing, storytelling, poetry, improvisation, graphic narratives etc.) in a local hospital. You will have an opportunity to brainstorm ideas with your groups, and to share those ideas with the Arts in Healthcare teaching-artists for feedback. Then, with your group, you will put your plan into action during a two-hour site visit to either Women's and Children's Hospital or Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Following your visit you will compose a ten-minute presentation with your group in which you describe your plan, your experience at the hospital, your reflections on the process, and your thoughts about the broader question, "What role might the literary arts play in the practice of medicine?"

Project Schedule

Monday October 31 – Groups are assigned. Brainstorm ideas for Arts in Healthcare creative intervention.

Wednesday November 2 – Groups will present their ideas to Arts in Healthcare Initiative teaching-artists and revise their plans.

Wednesday November 2–Friday December 2 – Groups will visit hospitals during assigned time slot and conduct their Arts in Healthcare creative intervention.

Monday December 5 – Groups will give ten minute presentations during class

Requirements

Creative Intervention:

- All group members must participate in the planning, implementation, and reflection stages of the project. If you are unable to contribute to one of these stages in person, it is up to you to reach out to me and to your group members to determine alternative ways of participating.

Presentation:

- Ten minutes long
- Everyone in group speaks at least once
- Describe your Arts in Healthcare creative intervention plan, summarize what occurred during your site visit, reflect upon the relationship between literature and healthcare based upon your experiences, and propose suggestions for others who might want to conduct similar creative interventions in a healthcare space.