

UnCommon Reads: *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*  
IDH 2930: Section 0172(23236)  
Fall 2020

INSTRUCTOR:

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Instructor  
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- All email correspondences must be from your “.ufl” account and have your full name in the body of the email. Otherwise, your message may not be recognized by our email filters, and thus, may not be answered.

CLASS MEETINGS:

Wednesday, Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM)

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97672226141?pwd=NXhFQm9iNzRiVVJEWEpXRkFvT2pNdz09>

Video and audio capabilities will be required (e.g., webcam, headset with microphone)

OFFICE HOURS:

Friday, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

*The Spirit Catches You* is the story of Hmong toddler Lia Lee and her parents as they navigate the unfamiliar territory of the Western healthcare system. This course will explore the themes of cultural competency in healthcare, immigrants’ experience in the American health care system, the physician patient relationship, health literacy and the culture of biomedicine.

Students who participate in this course will discuss, in depth:

- Their perceptions of and experiences with navigating the U.S. healthcare system, and how cultural and socio-economic factors might impact these interactions
- Ethical issues such as informed consent, beneficence, and autonomy, and what that means when language or cultural barriers to communication exist
- Immigrants’ experience in the health care system
- How health literacy impacts experience of healthcare system
- The chronic issues of compassion fatigue and burnout in the healthcare profession
- Defining “best possible care” when biomedical practices clash with a cultural or religious reality, particularly when children are involved
- The training of healthcare professionals and the culture of biomedicine
- Specific issues related to different concepts of palliative and end-of-life care

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Fadiman, A. (1998). *The spirit catches you and you fall down: A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. ISBN: 0374533407

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

*1-2 additional readings may be assigned each week. Students may read ahead, but class discussion will be focused on a topic relevant to the assigned reading.*

- **Class 1, September 2:** Introduction to course
  - Preparation for next week: read chapters 1 & 2, write 100 word contemplation
- **Class 2, September 9:** Influence of Cultural History on Identity
  - Preparation for next week: read chapters 3 & 4, write 100 word contemplation
- **Class 3, September 16:** Perceptions of Health, Illness, & Medicine
  - Preparation for next week: read chapters 5 & 6, write 100 word contemplation
  - *Additional required readings:* AMA Code of Medical Ethics Opinions: 1.1.3 Patient Rights, 1.1.4 Patient Responsibilities; 2.1.1 Informed Consent, and 2.2.1 Pediatric Decision Making; The Belmont Report (in Canvas: Files/Additional Readings)
- **Class 4, September 23:** Communication & Optimal Healthcare
  - Preparation for next week: read chapters 7 & 8, write 100 word contemplation
- **Class 5, September 30:** Child Welfare & Power
  - Preparation for next week: read chapters 9 & 10, write 100 word contemplation
- **Class 6, October 7:** Lack of Communication & Medical Errors
  - Preparation for next week: read chapter 11 & 12, write 100 word contemplation
  - **Assignment due:** Written proposal for final project
- **Class 7, October 14:** Experience and Processing of Trauma
  - Preparation for next week: read chapter 13 & 14, write 100 word contemplation
- **Class 8, October 21:** Avoidance & Resistance
  - Preparation for next week: read chapter 15 & 16, write 100 word contemplation
- **Class 9, October 28:** Palliative Care & Navigating Healthcare and Social Services
  - Preparation for next week: read chapter 17 & 18, write 100 word contemplation
- **Class 10, November 4:** Culture of Biomedicine & Complementary Therapies
  - Preparation for next week: read chapter 19, write 100 word contemplation

*\*November 11: Holiday*

- **Class 11, November 18:** Healing Ceremonies
  - Prepare for Final Presentation

*\*November 25: Holiday*

- **Class 12, December 2:** Final Presentations

➤ **Class 13, December 9: Final Presentations**

**December 11: Final Project due (Paper and presentation slides)**

CITATIONS FOR ASSIGNED READINGS

National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. (1979). *The Belmont report: Ethical principles and guidelines for the protection of human subjects of research*. Retrieved August 16, 2020, from [https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/sites/default/files/the-belmont-report-508c\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/sites/default/files/the-belmont-report-508c_FINAL.pdf)

American Medical Association. (2016). Code of medical ethics opinions: Responsibilities of physicians & patients. Retrieved August 16, 2020, from <https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/code-of-medical-ethics-chapter-1.pdf>

American Medical Association. (2016). Code of medical ethics opinions: Informed consent & shared decision making. Retrieved August 16, 2020, from <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-06/code-of-medical-ethics-chapter-2.pdf>

GRADING:

Assignment	Percent of Grade
Attendance and in-class participation	40%
Weekly Writings	20%
Final Project	40%
TOTAL	100%

Graded Assignments

**1) Attendance and In-Class Participation**

All students are expected to come to class prepared after reading the assigned chapters and additional readings. Students are expected to make significant contributions to the discussion by sharing perspectives and experiences while discussing the themes, questions and issues raised by the book.

**2) Weekly Contemplation Writings**

These writings will be based on the chapters and additional readings that have been assigned for that week. These writings will be submitted through Canvas are due the day before class. Each contemplation should be **100 words minimum**.

**3) Final Project**

The final project should address a topic of your choice related to the book and integrate insights learned from the course. Sample topics include (but are not limited to): cultural competence in healthcare; physician-patient relationship; health literacy; informed consent; medical compliance; the culture of biomedicine; immigrant experience in healthcare; beliefs and healthcare; patient autonomy; end of life care. *As noted in the*

*schedule above, a proposal needs to be submitted in advance for instructor approval. This should state your final project topic, how it is related to themes from the book, why you chose it, and briefly outline your intended approach.*

### **Final Paper**

Papers should be approximately 4-5 pages, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 11 or 12-point type, plus 2-3 references in the AMA citation style format. Papers should have a stated thesis or objective; a well-organized and articulated analysis of the issues; a well-reasoned argument for your position, which also addresses positions contrary to your own; and a conclusion.

### **Final Project Presentation**

Deliver a 15-minute presentation about your final project paper. The presentation slides will be turned in as part of your final project.

**NOTE:** *If you wish to change the topic of your final project as the class progresses, please consult with the instructor and be sure to get approval for any changes at least one month before the project is due.*

More information on grades and grading policies is available here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UP POLICY:**

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Attendance at and participation in class sessions are mandatory, and is worth 40% of the total course grade.

We understand that valid absences may occur. If you have a valid documented excuse and notify us by email in advance, you will be able to make up missed class discussions through written means.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) 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.

### **PRIVACY AND ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES**

For information about the privacy policies of the tools used in this course, see the links below:

- Instructure (Canvas)
  - [Privacy Policy](#)
  - [Accessibility](#)

- Zoom
  - [Privacy Policy](#)
  - [Accessibility](#)

#### COURSE EVALUATION:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

#### CLASS DEMEANOR:

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to remain in class until the class has been dismissed. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed any required readings and performed any preparatory work that is assigned. While in class, students are expected to participate in class discussion and to treat the other students and the instructors with respect and attention. While in class, students should not participate in texting, information seeking or viewing outside of that related to the course task at hand, talking on the phone, or other activities not related to classroom engagement and participation.

#### ZOOM ETIQUETTE:

As this is a discussion-based class, you will have your camera on. Be sure to dress appropriately for class. Also be mindful that others will be able to see your surroundings. Be sure there is nothing in view that you would not want others to see. Test your microphone before class to be sure you can be heard and speak into the microphone during class. To avoid excessive background noise from too many open microphones, please mute your microphone when you are not speaking, especially if you are in a noisy location.

#### COURSE WEBSITE:

Course website: E-Learning (Canvas) website, <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

The E-Learning (Canvas) website is where the class syllabus, handouts, notes and assignments will be posted, along with any announcements. This site is also where you will find basic information such as contact information and office hours for the instructors and teaching assistants and about the textbooks. Please remember that you are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and/or posted on the course website for this class.

#### MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES:

There are no materials and supplies fees assessed for this class.

#### 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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of 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 instructors in this class.

- Academic dishonesty cannot be tolerated. All persons involved in cheating or plagiarism will receive a zero on the affected assignment, and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: 392-1575

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

Contact information for the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Contact information for e-Learning support, including Canvas and Zoom assistance:

<https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/>