

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: Uncommon Reading: DOPESICK

INSTRUCTOR: DR. CRAIG SMITH (csmith@ufl.edu)

BOOK TITLE: *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America*

AUTHOR: Beth Macy

PUBLICATION DATE: 2018

This honors course will be taught by Dr. Craig Smith. Dr. Smith is a faculty member in the School of Art + Art History at UF and is the Director of Culture for Column Health. Column Health is a healthcare startup based in Boston, Massachusetts treating a patient panel including more than 1000 SUDS patients struggling with opioid addiction. Smith is working with the healthcare system in Massachusetts and has recently hosted the Secretary of Health and Human Services as well as the Governor of the state at clinics run by Column Health and curated by Smith. Smith curates and programs events and collections of art for Column Health. The art is in treatment rooms as well as common areas. In some locations there are galleries attached to the clinics featuring a range of national artists. The art collections are thus integrated into the treatment models at Column Health and they lead the public face of Column Health for the immediate community.

During this course we will read about and discuss the opioid epidemic in the United States.

- What are opioids?
- Why are they omni-present today?
- What is social stigma?
- How do we treat “addiction” and “addicts” in the United States?
- What is Fentanyl and why is it so dangerous?
- Why aren’t we reading Hillbilly Elegy?!
- Why is a healthcare company producing and supporting the arts and culture?!

To help us with these questions, we will read a new book called *Dopesick* by Beth Macy. Macy is an author and contributor to various news programs and publications. Her new book helps to take on the questions outlined above and to create links between each of our lives and that of a culture of healthcare that deals with mental illness, including addiction, in specific ways mandated on a state-by-state basis. By combining this new book’s critical assessment of opioid production and distribution with Smith’s on-the-ground practical experience within the healthcare industry, this course will allow students to gain and extend their awareness of the ways in which addiction can be treated, the ethics of such treatment, the opportunities for improved, respectful, and innovative changes in the industry that will not only save lives, but may help to change the social stigma applied to addicts and addiction. The CEO and CMO of Column Health will join one class meeting in-person and one by video during the semester.

Grading/Work-Load:

Attendance/Participation: 60%

Collaborative Presentation: 40%

One place to start to reach these goals is in discussion, so this course will run like a seminar in which all enrolled students are asked to read the book outside of class and then verbally participate in the weekly class meetings and discussions. Attendance and verbal participation will make up 60% of the course grade. In lieu of exams or papers, the remaining 40% of each student's grade will be based on a collaborative presentation that students will create together (in groups of 2-4 students) and present in the final weeks of the semester.

Letter Grade % GPA Equivalency

A 4.0 A- 3.67 B+ 3.33 B 3.00 B- 2.67 C+ 2.33 C 2.00 C- 1.67 D+ 1.33 D 1.00 D-.67

*Please Note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements.

UF grading policies can be reviewed at:

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

Class Demeanor Policy:

Students are expected to contribute in a positive and constructive manner. Any student purposely affecting the course negatively or another student negatively will be asked to leave the course and will be reported to appropriate university administration. The instructor anticipates that all students on this course will be supportive of one-another and patient with the difficult material they are engaging. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. If you have questions about appropriate classroom demeanor please notify the instructor.

Excused/unexcused absences/ arriving late to class: Any excused absence must be documented by a doctor's note and a copy of this note provided to the instructor. Unexcused absences will incur a five percent grade penalty per incident. Late arrivals to class will be treated as unexcused absences and will incur a five percent grade penalty per incident.

Mobile phones:

Using phones, laptops, or other devices for social or non- course related business will result in the loss of the student's privilege to bring their laptop or phone to the class lecture or other class meeting.

Late assignments: Please see Make-Up Policy above.

Food/drink:

Food and drink are not allowed in the University Gallery at any time. This includes water! Th

Student Accommodation:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

UF counseling and wellness services: University Counseling & Wellness Center
3190 Radio Road P.O. Box 112662 University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100
Phone: 352-392-1575
Web: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

Academic Honesty Policy:

The University's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following links: Academic Honesty:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty> Honor Code:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Student Conduct: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>