



Center for Ethics, Humanities & Spirituality

The Art of Listening

“the whole art of medicine is observation ...
but to educate the eye to see,
the ear to hear and the finger to feel takes time,
and to make a beginning,
to start a man on the right path,
is all that we can do.” (William Osler, 1903)



Wednesdays at noon: September 20 thru November 15, 2017

Course Description:

Observation, description and interpretation are essential skills in clinical diagnosis. These talents are also requisite in music and the visual arts. Thus, if medical students can improve their skills of observation in a safe environment by first listening and observing selected music and art, this will translate to enhanced skills when observing medical sounds and ultimately when observing a patient. Students can spend their lunch hour enhancing their observation skills. Under the direction of experienced docents and faculty, students are provided with a unique learning opportunity. Seminar credit is available to students who attend 6 of the 8 classes.

Portions* of this course will be held at the Museum of Texas Tech University. Course is limited to 15 students.

Course Schedule:

September 20	Classical music – listening for emotion and tone
September 27*	What does it mean to observe? How do we communicate to others?
October 11	Classical music – listening for melody and voice
October 18	Jazz – listening for tempo and showmanship
October 25*	Using visual evidence to come to a range of possible interpretations
November 1	Jazz – listening for creative expression and improvisation
November 8	Recovery Spirit – listening to the patient's story
November 15*	How do we communicate our differences?