This selective will present the role of hospice in the terminal care of the dying. As palliative care, hospice offers a method of care that is becoming more mainstream medicine, as it had been in the early days of medicine.

**Instructor**
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**Syllabus**
The hospice philosophy, our own death awareness, the interdisciplinary team approach and many significant issues the physician faces as the patient and family enter this period of crisis are all explored. Presentation methods include film, discussion, text and experiential explorations with an emphasis on group interaction. The course will provide useful and relevant methodology as we explore how each of us approach the terminal patient and the journey we are privileged to accompany them through. The opportunity to interact with a "seasoned" clinician, social worker and chaplain of the hospice team provide a close a view to the challenges of the terminal patient and family.

**Educational Objectives**
At the conclusion of this course you will have the ability to:

1. Understand how our own life experiences impact on the patient/physician relationship and how to best serve the patient.
2. Describe the hospice approach to the care of the terminally ill patient and the interdisciplinary team members and their roles.
3. Articulate the function of the physician in the final stages of the terminal care and how it impacts on the patient's well being and ultimately how the patient and family approach the life crisis.
4. Understand the difference between grief and bereavement.

**Topics and Dates**

**Session I**
*Hospice overview: How care is delivered, the interdisciplinary team approach, the role of compassion and why does it matter to a second year medical student?*

**Session II**
*Death Awareness: How our own life experiences impact on the relationship with patients. Do you remember your first experience with death? Have you even had that experience yet? Grief and bereavement and the difference between them are explored.*

**Session III**
*Pain and Symptom Management: An overview of the medications used for the terminal patient and some of the challenges faced, along with age-old myths about modalities and morphine.*

**Session IV**

Last updated on: 11/11/2011
Breaking the Bad News: Physicians face the challenging role of breaking bad news, treating or referring their patient and watching the inevitable terminal process. For many, this raises important personal questions. How do I tell her/him? When do I give up? Who is to blame? Concrete examples are discussed with open dialogue and interaction is strongly encouraged.

Session V
Spirituality in the care of the Terminal Patient: Spirituality is not necessarily religion. For some, it means a strong faith tradition. For many, it involves the essential question as we face our mortality, "Did my life have meaning?" Be prepared to work in an experiential way, with an open heart and mind.

**With the exception of the first and last sessions, the order may change to accommodate guest speakers.**

**Evaluation**
Evaluation is based on participation and attendance with an emphasis on a required journal submission weekly (electronic) no less than 6-12 pages in length.

**Class Size**
6-10