

## MCS Selective

### Astonished Harvest :: Becoming a Better Doctor Through Poetry

Through the study of poetry as it relates to the medical experience, we hope to foster a closer type of critical reading, an ability for a caregiver to understand and convey the needs of a patient, and an appreciation of the common concerns of the healing professions. This selective is designed for students interested in reflecting on their experience in medical school through the medium of poetry. It is open to students who have never written poetry, as well as to those who have pursued poetry in the past and wish to re-visit their Muse.

The selective is in the format of a continuing poetry workshop over several months, as a participant in *Astonished Harvest*, a loosely-knit group of physicians, other health care professionals, and community poets who meet regularly to share and critique their poetry. The workshop focuses on themes of illness and healing. Participants bring a new poem to read and discuss at each session.

#### Instructors

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#### Educational Objectives:

At the conclusion of this selective you will have the ability to:

- 1 Describe how writing and careful listening to language can increase your ability to experience empathy and act compassionately.
- 2 Explain how reflecting on your personal experience through poetry can enhance your self-awareness.
- 3 Express and illustrate basic forms of poetic expression and figurative language: allusion, image, simile, and metaphor.
- 4 Critically respond to your own and others' poems.

#### Requirements and Outline:

To complete and pass the selective, a student must:

- 1 Attend FOUR workshops out of a schedule of the five workshops to be held from Tuesday, April 25 2023 through May 30, 2023. The workshops will take place on Week 1, Tuesday, 4/25/23, Week 2, Tuesday 5/2/2023, Week 3, Tuesday 5/16/2023, Week 4, Monday 5/22/2023 (*Astonished Harvest* workshop), and Week 5, Tuesday 5/30/2023. Tuesday workshops will be held from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 PM, at the Medical Center (room assignment pending). The Monday *Astonished Harvest* workshop session will be held from 5:30 -7:30 PM and be conducted using *Zoom*, which requires audio and video capability on your computer. Please be sure you have the necessary equipment.
- 2 Write four poems and present each one at a workshop.
- 3 Participate in critiquing and discussing poems of other participants in the workshops.

Last updated on: 1/25/2023

- 4 Read a small amount of assigned material on the craft and experience of writing poetry from Mary Oliver's *A Poetry Handbook*. This book may be obtained on *Amazon Books*. Inexpensive used copies are available.

#### Class Size

Minimum 6 Maximum 8: