

## **A BROKEN HEART**

### **IRP, Spring 2015, Syllabus**

**Coordinators:** Bob Braff and Lorne Taichman

As the heart is so central in our culture and beliefs, we expect to have lively discussions in all the classes, especially when we discuss issues such as iconography of the heart, core beliefs that encompass the heart, the ethics of transplantation. We will also be assigning special topics to class members for presentation and discussion.

**Readings and other Required Materials:** There will be a variety of handouts from newspapers, journals, books and blogs. In addition we will be using and assigning YouTube videos to watch at home. There is no “text book.”

Week 1 Introduction I: Heart Iconography; The Heart as the Soul; Beliefs and Superstitions

Week 2 Introduction II: Our Evolving Insights into the Heart

Week 3 Introduction III: The Heart in Language, Literature and Poetry

Week 4 How the Heart Works I: Anatomy and Physiology of the Heart (Muscle, Valves, Coronary Arteries, Conduction System)

Week 5 How the Heart Works II: The Heart-Brain Connection; Lost Love, Dying of a Broken Heart, Voodoo Death, Takasubo Cardiomyopathy

Week 6 A Broken Heart I: Cardiac Risk Factors; Arteriosclerosis and Inflammation; Acute Coronary Syndrome; Interventions

Week 7 A Broken Heart II: Good Cholesterol: Bad Cholesterol

Week 8 A Broken Heart III: The Beat Goes On (and Off); Arrhythmias; Heart Rate Variability; Pacemakers

Week 9 A Broken Heart IV: Congestive Heart Failure – What Is It and What Can You Do About It?

Week 10 A Change of Heart: Heart Transplantation; History; Fairness in the System; Ethics; Interview with a Recipient

Week 11 Born with a Broken Heart: “Blue Babies” - Alfred Blalock, Helen Taussig & Vivien Thomas - Movie: “Something the Lord Made”

Week 12: A Mended heart: The Future of Heart Medicine: Wrap up