

Medical Legal Literature Club Syllabus

Adapted from Dr. Joshua Chao, MD, JD

Below is a list of nonfiction, fiction, poetry, documentaries, articles, and news sources relevant to the medical-legal space. These works touch on topics including carceral health, migrant health, reproductive rights, substance misuse, healthcare in wartime, and food inequity.

The works listed below are great options to consider for a presentation or opinion piece, but this list is by no means comprehensive. You are not required to present or write about any of the works listed below for the monthly discussions or upcoming newsletters. This syllabus is primarily meant to illustrate the type of pieces we'd like to see discussed in the club.

Nonfiction

- Jailcare: Finding the Safety Net for Women Behind Bars
 - o Carolyn Sufrin
- The New Jim Crow
 - o Michelle Alexander
- Discipline and Punish
 - o Michel Foucault
- Are Prisons Obsolete?
 - o Angela Y. Davis
- Sister Outsider
 - o Audre Lorde
- The Cancer Journals
 - o Audre Lorde
- Gender Trouble
 - o Judith Butler
- The Wretched of the Earth
 - o Frantz Fanon
- Just Mercy
 - o Bryan Stevenson
- The Empathy Exams
 - o Leslie Jamison
- Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America
 - o Sadidiya Hartman
- How the Other Half Eats: The Untold Story of Food and Inequality in America
 - o Priya Fielding-Singh

- You're the Only One I've Told: The Stories Behind Abortion
 - o Meera Shah
- Being Mortal
 - o Atul Gawande
- Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness
 - o Susannah Cahalan
- American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and You Can Take It Back
 - o Elisabeth Rosenthal
- The Collected Schizophrenias (Chapter: "On The Ward")
 - o Esmé Weijun Wang
- Mountains Beyond Mountains
 - o Tracy Kidder
- An Intimate History of Premature Birth
 - o Sarah Digregorio
- Fearing the Black Body: The Racial Origins of Fat Phobia
 - o Sabrina Strings
- This is Going To Hurt
 - o Adam Kay

Novels

- The Quiet Boy (2021)
 - o Ben H. Winters
- Oxygen (2008)
 - o Carol Wiley Cassella
- The Verdict (1980)
 - o Barry Reed
- Cutting for Stone (2009)
 - o Abraham Verghese

Poetry

- *Felon (collection)*
 - o Reginald Dwayne Betts
 - o Poem: [House of Unending](#)
- [In the Hospital](#)
 - o Chen Chen
- [Patients](#)
 - o Aurora Levins Morales

Journal Articles / Essays

- [Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex](#)

- Kimberlé Crenshaw
- Illness as Metaphor
 - Susan Sontag
- Medicine and Colonialism (Essay in “A Dying Colonialism”)
 - Frantz Fanon
- What Do We Owe Our Patients? Surgeon Obligations When Patients Are Too Sick for Surgery
 - Lazenby & Angelos
- *Article example:* Do Patients Without Terminal Illness Have a Right to Die?

Films/Series

- Criminal Queers
 - <https://vimeo.com/221584005>
- 13th
 - Dir. Ava DuVernay
 - Netflix
- Milwaukee 53206
 - Dir. Keith McQuirter
- Brain on Fire
 - Dir. Gerard Barrett
- Rising Phoenix
 - Dir. Ian Bonhote
 - Netflix
- Human Nature
 - Dir. Adam Bolt
- Dopesick (series)
 - Hulu/Disney

News Sources

- JAMA Law & Medicine
 - <https://jamanetwork.com/collections/5716/law-and-medicine>
- Reuters
 - <https://www.reuters.com/>
- Associated Press
 - <https://apnews.com/>
- Aljazeera
 - [Aljazeera.com](https://www.aljazeera.com)

- NPR
 - o <https://www.npr.org/>
- KFF – Independent source for health policy research, polling, and news
 - o <https://www.kff.org/>
- American Health Law Association
 - o <https://www.americanhealthlaw.org/publications/health-law-weekly>
- Law360
 - o <https://www.law360.com/health>