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Integrating graphic medicine into health sciences curricula: enhancing empathy and understanding through visual storytelling

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Keywords

Health Literacy, Empathy, graphic medicine, narrative medicine

Abstract

Graphic medicine is visual storytelling about illness, health, medicine, and science. Graphic medicine comics allow “readers to consider visual and text-based representations of a patient’s actions, speech, thoughts, and emotions” (Tschaeppe 122). Visual storytelling can universalize experiences of illness and health, increasing empathy, and improving communication with a range of patients from different backgrounds (McCloud). Graphic medicine texts can also be vital in improving observational skills, an essential attribute of healthcare providers (Green).

Learning Objectives

- Define graphic medicine and describe its foundational principles
- Articulate how graphic medicine can be used to enhance the educational experience of students in health sciences
- Propose strategies for incorporating graphic medicine into curricula
- Articulate how the OHSU Library can support the integration of graphic medicine into curricula by letting attendees see actual examples of Graphic Medicine books

Participants will leave the session with tools to begin integrating graphic medicine into their own curriculum.

References

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2. McCloud S. *Understanding comics: the invisible art*. HarperPerennial, 1994.
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