



Harris College
of Nursing & Health Sciences

Interprofessional Research,
Education and Practice (IPREP)



SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK

June 26, 2023

Dear Student:

Welcome to the School of Public Health. Over the next two years, you will come to learn that the various fields of health care thrive through collaboration. As such, the university offers numerous opportunities for students to participate in interprofessional education (IPE) experiences. Through collaborative teamwork, IPE is an opportunity for students from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines to come together with the goal of creating solutions for healthier communities and safer health care systems. As part of the collaborative experience, the 2023 IPE Common Reading Program is a shared learning experience for students from the disciplines of TCU Communication Sciences & Disorders, TCU Nursing, TCU Social Work, UNTHSC School of Public Health, and UTA School of Social Work. Our goal for this interactive discussion is to stimulate meaningful conversations about the profession that you are entering while learning about many possibilities to make a difference.

This year's selection for the 2023 IPE Common Reading is *Five Days at Memorial* (2013) by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, Sheri Fink. *Five Days at Memorial* offers a stunning recreation of the Katrina storm, its aftermath, and the investigation that followed. Events such as Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Harvey have impacted the lives of many people who were adversely affected by these natural disasters. Even if you personally do not know of anyone impacted by these hurricanes, there still may be content in this book that can be disturbing or triggering for yourself and/or other students. Fink's best-selling novel explores controversial issues such as end-of-life care, medical rationing, team and communication breakdowns, class and race discrimination, and euthanasia. While these may be difficult subjects to explore- it is important that we have critically assess these situations and have dialogue about these topics to prevent adverse events that may threaten the safety of patients and communities. Resources are available on campus that can be of assistance should you feel the need to discuss any personal reactions that you may have as a result of reading this book. You can reach our Care Team at HSC for more information on how to access counseling resources. The Care Team can be reached at 817-735-2740.

In preparation for your interactive discussion board (asynchronous online) that will start on Sunday 10/1 and end on Saturday 10/14 (two weeks), we are suggesting that you obtain a copy of the book- *Five Days at Memorial* and read it over the summer, while you have no other

assignments. As you read through the book, you will need to complete the guided reading and self-reflection questions (attached). It will assist you as you participate on the discussion board (there is also a mini-series on Apple TV+). Should you have any questions about the 2023 IPE Common Reading Program, please contact Dr. Kayla Fair at kayla.fair@unthsc.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at our first interprofessional experience!

Sincerely,



Kayla Fair, DrPH, MPH, RN | Assistant Professor

Public Health Education

School of Public Health

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