



Pre-Med Reading List

The purpose of this list is to guide students who are interested in independently reading more about each subject area. Books were selected in consultation with professors who teach courses in healthcare finance and medical ethics as well as based on the recommendations of premedical and medical students at Yale University.*

All books should not be regarded as the definitive texts. They are meant to be approachable. Some material, specifically in the healthcare policy and economics section, becomes dated quickly. To remain current with issues in medicine consult relevant journals, including *Health Affairs* and *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Books can be found in one of the Yale libraries, through Amazon.com, or in some cases, through private booksellers, which can be found by a Google search.

Being a doctor

- *Complications*, Atul Gawande
- *Arrowsmith*, Sinclair Lewis
- *On Doctoring: Stories, Poems, Essays*, Richard Reynolds ed.
- *House of God*, Samuel Shem
- *Doctor Stories*, William Carlos Williams

Biography

- *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, Tracy Kidder (biography of Paul Farmer)

Healthcare policy and economics

- *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*, Bodenheimer and Grumbach
- *Your Money or Your Life*, David Cutler
- *Who Shall Live?*, Victor Fuchs

History of medicine

- *Napoleon's Glands and Other Adventures in Biohistory*, Arno Karlen
- *American Medicine Comes of Age, 1840-1920*, Lester King
- *A History of Public Health*, George Rosen
- *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*, Paul Starr
- *The Youngest Science: Notes of a Medicine Watcher*, Lewis Thomas
- *My Own Country*, Abraham Verghese (AIDS epidemic)

Medical education

- *A Not Entirely Benign Procedure*, Perri Klass
- *Learning to Play God*, Robert Marion
- *Singular Intimacies*, Danielle Ofri

Medical ethics

- *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, Beauchamp and Childress
- *First, Do No Harm*, Lisa Belkin
- *Classic Cases in Medical Ethics*, Gregory Pence
- *Classic Works in Medical Ethics*, Gregory Pence

Patient's perspective

- *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Anne Fadiman
- *A Whole New Life*, Reynolds Price

Science and medicine

- *A PhD is Not Enough*, Peter Feibelman
- *The Eighth Day of Creation*, Horace Judson
- *Microbe Hunters*, Paul de Kruif

Surgery

- *The Making of a Surgeon*, William Nolen
- *Letters to a Young Doctor*, Richard Selzer
- *Confessions of a Knife*, Richard Selzer
- *When the Air Hits Your Brain*, Frank Vertosick (neurosurgery)

*Matt Bender, JE '06, UCS Peer Advisor and a premedical student, was instrumental in compiling this book list.