Occupational Therapy 375

**The Narrative Structure of Social Action:  
Narrative, Healing and Occupation**

Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy

at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry

University of Southern California

Instructor: Dr. Gelya Frank

Fall 2019

**Catalog Description:**

Narrative as guide and structure of practical action. Special emphasis on chronic illness and disability and narrative structure of clinical interactions.

**Required Book:**

Sweet, Victoria. (2012). God’s Hotel: A Doctor, A Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine. New York: Riverhead Press. (Available New $10.45 on Amazon.com)

**Course Description:**

We are going to take a journey through the 20-year experience of physician and historian Victoria Sweet at Laguna Hondo, a public charity hospital in San Francisco. There we will meet her fellow doctors and learn how they came to experience Laguna Hondo as ‘a gift’ to them and why they fell in love with the institution and its practice. Most of all we will meet Dr. Sweet’s patients and learn the lessons that she gained from the practice of medicine in this institution, structured like a premodern almshouse, with its challenging patients and low resources but plenty of time. In the spirit of Dr. S, who came to call her practice Slow Medicine, we are going to take our own ‘Sweet’ time to read and savor this book chapter by chapter, alternating and enriching the book with online articles, films and assignments. I am really looking forward to this new way of teaching and the opportunities it will open for your growth as students and mine as your instructor.