The Florida State University
College of Medicine

BMS 6204

Medical Biochemistry and Genetics

Spring 2012

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Instructors

Course Director

Cathy W. Levenson, Ph.D.
Office 2350-E Phone 850-644-4122
Email: cathy.levenson@med.fsu.edu

Course Instructors

Michelle Arbeitman, PhD
Nancy Baker, MD
Michael Blaber, PhD
Angelina Cain, MD
Jamila Horabin, PhD
Cathy W. Levenson, PhD
Timothy Megraw, PhD
Thomas Morgan, PhD
Lea Parsley, MD
Branko Stefanovic, PhD
Jacob VanLandingham, PhD

Course Overview

Course Goals

The overall course goal is to provide the foundation to utilize fundamental information about biochemistry and genetics in second year courses, later clerkships, graduate medical education, and clinical practice. Specifically, the course is designed to:

- Enhance medical knowledge & clinical reasoning skills. Students will be able to apply their knowledge of the basic biochemical and genetic mechanisms to common or representative diseases, including the symptoms associated with disease, as demonstrated not only by their performance on course examinations and quizzes, but also in later courses, clerkships and graduate medical education.

- Prepare students to scientifically evaluate disease treatment strategies. Students will be able to identify critical components of biochemistry and genetics that inform treatment decisions, as evidenced by examination and quiz performance. Performance on these assessments should be at a mastery level which will indicate the future transfer of knowledge necessary not only for current biochemically-based treatments, but also to evaluate new treatments and diagnostic tools as they are developed for clinical use.

- Prepare students to communicate effectively and professionally. Students will collaborate with classmates and apply their knowledge of biochemical and genetic information to solve clinical problems by working professionally and effectively in small groups.

Learning Objectives

The Institutional Learning Objectives relevant for Medical Biochemistry and Genetics relate to the FSU COM competency domains.

Competencies

FSUCOM – Competencies -Course Title BMS 6204		
Competency Domains	Competencies Covered in the Course	Methods of Assessment
Patient Care	x*	Examinations and weekly quizzes
Medical Knowledge	x	Students will be able to explain the basic biochemical and genetic mechanisms of common or representative diseases in the small group setting, Examinations and weekly quizzes as well as the NBME Subject Exam
Practice-based Learning	x*	Students who do not achieve competency performance on an assessment will self-assess their knowledge gaps and formulate a plan for improvement.
Communication Skills	x	Peer and self-evaluations of professionalism during small case-based and problem-based learning modules
Professionalism	x	Peer and self-evaluations of professionalism during small case-based and problem based learning modules
System-based Practice		N/A
NOTES: *Clinical faculty and physicians with active practices are invited to illustrate how biochemical and genetic information and knowledge are used clinical practice.		

Policies

Americans with Disabilities Act

Candidates for the M.D. degree must be able to fully and promptly perform the essential functions in each of the following categories: Observation, Communication, Motor, Intellectual, and Behavioral/Social. However, it is recognized that degrees of ability vary widely between individuals. Individuals are encouraged to discuss their disabilities with the College of Medicine's Director of Student Counseling Services and the FSU Student Disability Resource Center to determine whether they might be eligible to receive accommodations needed in order to train and function effectively as a physician. The Florida State University College of Medicine is committed to enabling its students by any reasonable means or accommodations to complete the course of study leading to the medical degree.

The Office of Student Counseling Services
Medical Science Research Building
G146
Phone: (850) 645-8256Fax: (850) 645-9452

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
Voice: (850) 644-9566
TDD: (850) 644-8504

sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability

Academic Honor Code

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy)

Attendance Policy

The College of Medicine has detailed attendance policies as they relate to each cohort and events that conflict with course schedules. See pages 28-30 of *FSUCOM Student Handbook* for details of attendance policy, notice of absences and remediation.

Reading Materials

Meisenberg, G. and Simmons, W.H. *Principles of Medical Biochemistry*. 3rd Edition. Mosby Elsevier, Philadelphia, 2006.

Nussbaum, RL, McInnes, RR, Willard, HF. Genetics in Medicine. 7th Edition. W.B. Saunders Co., New York, 2007. (Available as e-book from COM Library)

Grading

Assignments and weights

There will be 4 integrated examinations (Physiology, Biochemistry, Health Issues and Doctoring 103). There will be 50 biochemistry questions on each exam. Questions will be one-best-answer LCME Step I examination format. It is anticipated that each test will be worth 50 points, although it is possible that problems with an exam question will alter the total points for a given test.

The NBME Basic Sciences Subject Examination in Biochemistry will be administered at the end of the semester. This exam will be worth a maximum of 50 points. The score will be normalized based on class average and historical data.

There will be 11 quizzes with a maximum value of 5 points each. The lowest quiz will be dropped. There will be a maximum of 50 total possible quiz points. Quizzes will be administered in a combined format with the questions from Physiology and Health Issues.

The final course grade will be based upon the percentage of the total available points obtained from a maximum possible of 300 points.

Exam Performance

The Florida State University College of Medicine is committed to the concept of a developmental curriculum. The knowledge acquired in this course is considered to be essential for success in subsequent courses. Therefore, any student performing poorly on an assessment is expected to analyze his/her performance and take steps to master areas of deficiency. To this end, any student scoring less than a 65% on an exam will be required to attend the exam review and meet with the course director to discuss areas of medical knowledge that require clarification, and implement plans to improve performance on subsequent exams. Failure to do so will be reported to Dean for Student Affairs and the E and P committee.

Grading Scale

Students must achieve 70% of the total points available to **Pass** the course. Students achieving less than 70% will **Fail** the course. If a student fails the course, the course director will provide a report to the E and P committee, which will make a decision concerning next steps to be taken by the student.