



The Florida State University
College of Medicine

Health Issues in Medicine

BMS 6930

Fall 2011

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Instructors

Course Director

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Co-Course Directors

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Faculty

Gail Bellamy, Ph.D. 644-3454
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Henry Carretta, Ph.D., MPH 645-6897
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Course Overview

Course Goals

The course in the Fall and Spring semesters of the first year of medical school covers critical issues in epidemiology, biostatistics, evidence-based medicine, health systems, health financing, and health policy. The goal of the course is to provide the students with the opportunity to learn: 1) how evidence-based medicine and information mastery are pivotal to their ability to assimilate and critique important health related information, 2) the basic concepts of biostatistics and epidemiology as they relate to the healthcare field, 3) how the U.S. healthcare system functions, 4) the basic concepts of the health financing systems currently in place and planned in the immediate future. At the completion of the course, students will be competent to interpret medical literature through a basic understanding of biostatistics and epidemiology. In addition students will have an understanding of the organization and structure of health care delivery in the U.S. and Florida, and the challenges that confront physicians and policy makers in the 21st century.

Learning Objectives

Students must be able to:

Knowledge

1. Apply basic epidemiology and biostatistics principles to interpret and critically evaluate the medical literature.
2. Describe how health care is organized in the US and Florida, with special attention to the impact of managed care on health, health care providers, and patients.
3. Identify and define major themes in the history of medicine and public health, along with their traditional and emerging organizational structures.
4. Describe and analyze the emerging health concerns at each stage of the life cycle, the needs of special populations, especially the elderly, disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups, and the range of potential policy and program responses.
5. Compare and contrast the impact of information technology on health services.
6. Classify and explain emerging issues as health reform is debated and implemented at the national level by policy makers

Skills

1. Demonstrate the ability to apply evidence-based medicine to a case and describe its application to clinical practice generally.
2. Demonstrate the ability to design and integrate prevention and quality of care into a clinical practice, with sensitivity to special populations.
3. Demonstrate the ability to access and incorporate academic and other sources of information (including a growing volume of material available via the internet) about health policy and health policy-making.

Attitudes/Behaviors

1. Exhibit appropriate value for the patient's familial, cultural, and spiritual circumstances within the context of the health care delivery system.
2. Demonstrate professionalism and high ethical principles and standards, respect for others, professional responsibility, and social responsibility.

3. Exhibit a capacity for self-evaluation, moral reflection and ethical reasoning in the written assignments.
4. Demonstrate a respect for the roles of healthcare providers and an appreciation of the need to collaborate with others in caring for individual patients and in promoting public health and community service.

Course Format

Instruction is predominantly lecture-based, with some class discussion.

Competencies

FSUCOM – Competencies -Health Issues in Medicine BMS 6930		
Competency Domains	Competencies Covered in the Course	Methods of Assessment
Patient Care	X	Written exams and quizzes; customized NBME Subject Exam
Medical Knowledge	X	Written exams and quizzes; EBM practicum, short papers, customized NBME Subject Exam
Practice-based Learning	X	Written exams and quizzes; EBM practicum, short papers
Communication Skills		
Professionalism	X	Written exams and quizzes; customized NBME Subject Exam
System-based Practice	X	Written exams and quizzes; short papers, EBM practicum
NOTES:		

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) 645-8256

Fax: (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 28-29** of [FSUCOM Student Handbook](#) for details of attendance policy, notice of absences and remediation.

Required Materials

Thomas S. Bodenheimer and Kevin Grumbach, *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*, 5th Ed., (Stamford, Conn.: Appleton & Lange, 2009).

Suggested Materials

Electronic Resources:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: <http://www.ahrq.gov>
American Medical Association: <http://www.ama-assn.org>
Association of American Medical Colleges: <http://www.aamc.org>
Association of University Programs in Health Administration: <http://www.aupha.org>
Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.dhhs.gov>
Health Care Financing Administration: <http://www.hcfa.gov>
Library of Congress: <http://thomas.loc.gov>
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations: <http://www.jcaho.org>
National Committee for Quality Assurance: <http://www.ncqa.org>
National Institute on Aging: <http://www.nih.gov/nia>
National Institutes of Health: <http://www.nih.gov>
Institute of Medicine: <http://www.iom.edu>
Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov>
Commonwealth Fund: <http://www.comonwelathfund.org>
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: <http://www.kff.org>

Other articles and materials:

Selected articles from the following journals: Health Affairs, Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, The Milbank Quarterly, The New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, and the American Journal of Public Health, as assigned.

Grading

Assignments and Grading

FSU COM has adopted a pass/fail grading system for the first and second years. See page 31 in the Student Handbook for [Definition of Grades](#). To receive a grade of Pass, a student must complete all of the following:

- A score of $\geq 70\%$ on all examinations covering biostatistics and epidemiology (Fall).
- An average of $\geq 70\%$ on all block exams (Spring), with no individual exam score $< 65\%$. Any exam with a score $< 65\%$ must be remediated as determined by the Course Director before the next exam.

- An average of $\geq 70\%$ on quizzes.
- Satisfactory completion of the Evidence Based Medicine practicum, as determined by the Course Director.
- Attendance and satisfactory completion of the Medical Informatics training, as determined by the Course Director
- Satisfactory completion of the Health Policy or Health Care Financing topical brief (Spring), as determined by the Course Director and including submission no later than the due date.

Examinations and Quizzes

Examinations: The material for examinations will come from lectures, the textbook, and other assigned readings. The format for examinations will be as follows:

Written examination items: multiple-choice questions (single best answer). In the Fall and Spring semester. Health Issues will contribute approximately 4-5 examination questions per lecture to each of the integrated block examinations during which there were Health Issues classes. These examinations will cover material in all the courses for the four weeks prior to each examination. Additionally, students will be given quizzes throughout the year with questions drawn from lecture material and from assigned readings.

Reading Assignments

Complete each week's readings prior to class and come to class prepared to discuss.

Short Paper

Students will be assigned one short paper during the academic year. During the Spring semester a health issue topical brief will be assigned. It is to be written as an educational paper related to a health policy or financing issue. This paper will be appropriately researched, referenced and presented, summarizing high level findings in two double spaced pages. References will be correctly cited and attributed through the use of Endnotes. Successful completion of this brief requires: a) submitting a completed document prior to the deadline; and, b) demonstrating appropriate preparation, thought and execution in the construction of the brief. Briefs that are deemed unsatisfactory must be re-written using the feedback provided by the course director.

Evidence Based Medicine

Students will read and critically evaluate an assigned scientific journal article selected by the course director. The student will write an analysis of the article using an evidence-based approach/format and present this analysis to the course director and/or his designee. Successful completion of this activity requires: a) completing and presenting the analysis at the appointed time; and, b) demonstrating appropriate preparation and thoughtful analysis in constructing this document. Students who present an unsatisfactory analysis of the article are required to read and critically evaluate a second article, demonstrating the appropriate analysis and presentation.

Medical Informatics

Students will be required to attend a 2 hour session on searching for medical references and use of Endnotes in the Spring semester with Nancy Clark. This training will be offered early in the Spring semester for at least two sessions. Please attend one session. Students who have received an excused absence from the Office of Student Affairs in advance will be required to remediate the material through watching a video of this presentation, and successfully completing a written quiz over the session content.