

The Savvy Health Care Consumer
UGS Signature Course
Course Syllabus - Spring 2017

Course Details:

Unique Number	Type	Meeting Time	Room Number
63255	Lecture	MW 10am to 10:50am	PHR 2.114
	Discussion group	Friday 9am to 9:50am	PHR 3.110
63245	Lecture	MW 10am to 10:50am	PHR 2.114
	Discussion group	Friday 10am to 10:50am	PHR 3.110
63250	Lecture	MW 10am to 10:50am	PHR 2.114
	Discussion group	Friday 11am to 11:50am	PHR 3.110

Instructor:

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Summary

This is a large-format Signature Course whose purpose is to expose students to faculty members and various disciplines throughout the UT system. These courses range from 50-200 students, but discussion sessions of 17 students create the intimate environment found in the Signature Seminars. The large format courses are similar to seminars in their requirements (i.e., interdisciplinary and contemporary content, oral presentation, information literacy, use of campus resources, University Lecture Series). However, writing assignments will be required in this course. This course consists of two 50-minute classroom sessions and one 50-minute discussion session each week.

The goal of this particular course is to enhance student knowledge of the health care system while exposing the student to the unique resources available to them on the University of Texas campus. Topics covered in class and discussion sessions may include the following:

- The current health status of the United States
- Components of the healthcare system, including the Affordable Health Care Act
- Pharmaceuticals – regulation, how prescription medications are prescribed and delivered, differences between over-the-counter medications and how they are used
- Basic First Aid – What is this and how do I treat it? When do I call a physician or go to the emergency room?
- Health insurance – How it works and what to look for
- How to be your own healthcare advocate

Hopefully, this information will make the student a better consumer in the healthcare system and provide a lifetime foundation for better health.

Course Objectives

1. Students will gain knowledge of the current U.S. healthcare system and how to navigate it.
2. Students will obtain a better understanding and appreciation of over-the-counter medications including their appropriate use, risks and benefits.
3. Students will be exposed to various resources and unique components of the University of Texas system.

Course Components

This course has the following components:

- **Class lecture** – Monday and Wednesday – 50 minutes each
 - Various assignments, class exercises, essays and oral presentations
 - Expect to spend time outside of class reviewing material
- **Discussion sections** – Friday – 50 minutes each
 - Seventeen to eighteen students each
 - Attendance is mandatory – Each student is allowed one absence
 - Discussions centered on current healthcare topics and self-care
- **Gems of the University** - Signature Courses highlight resources unique to the University of Texas. The University Gems are special sites that house numerous and varied collections that will enhance your learning experience and appreciation for what this campus offers. You will be required to visit two gems during the semester and provide evidence that you did complete the visit. Specifics on this requirement will be provided before your visit. Admission is free and time will be allowed during class to visit these gems on your own. To find out more information about the Gems, visit their website at <https://ugs.utexas.edu/sig/essentials/gems>.
- **University Lecture Series** - The University Lecture Series gives students opportunities to hear from leading members of the university faculty. You will be required to view the lecture and write a short reflection on the presentation. The lecture you will watch is:
 - “Two Guys on Your Head” by Dr. Robert Duke and Dr. Art Markman. You can find the lecture at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3cyfL2bpS0&feature=youtu.be>
- **Library session**
 - Instructional session involving how to evaluate written media on accuracy of information provided

Student Evaluation

- Health Insurance worksheet = 10%
- Medication Adherence worksheet = 5%
- University Lecture Series - Listen to one lecture plus written reflection = 5%
- UT Gems - Visit two gems plus provide visit documentation at 5% each = 10%
- Two short essays at 10% each = 20%
- One 10-page essay = 20%
- Attendance in discussion sections = 20%
- Oral presentation = 5%
- Library session = 5%

Grading Scale

The grading scale for this class is the following:

- 94-100% = A
- 90-93% = A-
- 87-89% = B+
- 84-86% = B
- 80-83% = B-
- 77-79% = C+
- 74-76% = C
- 70-73% = C-
- 67-69% = D+
- 64-66% = D
- 60-63% = D-
- 59 and below = F

Course Policies for The Savvy Healthcare Consumer

The following course policies and procedures were developed with two guiding principles in mind: (1) to create an appropriate learning environment for students; and (2) to maintain academic integrity for the course and the university. Students need to know what is expected and know their responsibilities from the beginning of the course. Hopefully, this will eliminate or reduce problems regarding teaching, student conduct, course policies and procedures. Therefore, it is very important that you read and understand the following information.

You are students at an elite university and this course is being offered and taught by instructors from professional programs. All the instructors expect courteous and professional behavior from students. Likewise, the instructors pledge to conduct the course in a professional manner.

Attendance and Class Decorum

1. Please attend all scheduled class meetings and arrive on time. Arriving late disturbs fellow students and the instructor. You are responsible for **ALL** material covered in class and **ALL** announcements made in your absence.
2. Please respect your fellow students and the instructors. Excessive talking, distractions and noise can be troublesome for students and instructors. Many times instructors are not aware of noise or distractions. If you have trouble hearing lectures and class discussions due to distractions around you, please inform Professor Rush or the instructor.
3. Please let the instructor know immediately of any problem(s) which may prevent you from performing satisfactorily in this class.
4. Computers in the classroom are allowed if they are used on the lecture material being presented. Other uses are not allowed.
5. Cell phone use is not allowed in class.

6. Religious holidays – University policy respects religious holidays. If you need to miss any required activities, discussion sections or exams for the observance of a religious holy day, please inform Professor Rush in writing as far in advance as possible so arrangements can be made to complete the required component.

Academic Integrity

“Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties including failure of the course involved and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, fellow students, and the integrity of the University and the College of Pharmacy, policies on scholastic dishonesty are strictly enforced.”

Please refer to the Student Judicial Services website (<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>) for the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

Academic Accommodations

“The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (471-4641 TTY).”

Writing Component Guidelines

Writing Center: I strongly encourage you to use the Undergraduate Writing Center (UWC), FAC 211, 471-6222: <http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/>). The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. The consultants there work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Whether you are writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or your own poetry, UWC consultants will be happy to work with you. Their services are not just for writing that has "problems." Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

1. There are **four required writing assignments**. There are two short essays worth 10% each of your final grade, one 10-page essay worth 20% of your final grade and one Lecture Series reflection worth 5% of your grade. Essay guidelines and topics will be made available on Canvas and discussed in class.
2. Indicated assignments will be turned in on Canvas ***by 11:59pm*** on the dates indicated on the course schedule. Assignments not turned in by that time will be considered late. A late penalty will be assessed.
3. The University considers plagiarism (presenting someone else’s work as your own) to be a form of scholastic dishonesty. Whenever a student quotes another person’s work, whether published or unpublished, that source must be acknowledged. Even if paraphrased, credit should be given to the person who stated the idea being used.

This class utilizes the Canvas Learning Management System. Additional resources may be found at:
<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028>.

COURSE SCHEDULE – Topics and dates are subject to change

Date	Topic	Special Instructions
Jan 18	Intro to class	
Jan 20 Discussion	NO DISCUSSION GROUP	
Jan 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral Presentation Topics • Legislative teams and assignments • Issues in Healthcare 	
Jan 25	Self-Care: HEENT	
Jan 27 Discussion	Intro and Flu Facts exercise Self-care: HEENT case work	
Jan 30	Writing in Process	UT Writing Center presentation
Feb 1	APA Format	Becca Hammonds, TA
Feb 3 Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation team assignments • Medication Adherence Exercise Instructions • Online Resources – Articles and common threads 	
Feb 6	U.S. and TX Health Stats	
Feb 8	U.S. and TX Health Stats (cont)	
Feb 10 Discussion	Library Session – Mandatory for everyone!!	<i>Directions will be given later</i>
Feb 13	Our Healthcare System	Start Medication Adherence Exercise
Feb 15	Peer Review Essay #1 with Writing Center	Bring paper copy of Essay #1
Feb 17 Discussion	Oral presentation group work	
Feb 20	Affordable Healthcare Act	
Feb 22	NO CLASS – Visit UT Gem	Essay #1 due
Feb 24 Discussion	Self-care	
Feb 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-cigarette discussion • Health Insurance Basics 	
March 1	Health Insurance Basics (cont)	

March 3 Discussion	Group work on oral presentations	
March 6	NO CLASS – View Lecture Series	
March 8	Self-Care	Medication Adherence Worksheet due
March 10 Discussion	Self-Care Receive “The Doctor” video	
March 13-19	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	
March 20	NO CLASS	
March 22	Summary of Benefits and Coverage	Lecture Series Reflection due
March 24 Discussion	NO DISCUSSION GROUP - Visit UT Gem	
March 27	NO CLASS - View “The Doctor” video	
March 29	Peer Review of Essay #2	Bring paper copy of Essay #2
March 31 Discussion	“The Doctor” discussion	
April 3	Summary of Benefits and Coverage	Essay #2 due
April 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACIP discussion • Summary of Benefits and Coverage 	
April 7 Discussion	Group work on oral presentations	
April 10	Oral presentations (two teams)	Health Insurance Worksheet due
April 12	Oral presentations (two teams)	
April 14 Discussion	NO DISCUSSION GROUP – Good Friday holiday	
April 17	Oral presentations	UT Gem documentation due
April 19	Oral presentations	
April 21 Discussion	Self-Care	Essay #3 due
April 24	Oral presentations	
April 26	Oral presentations	
April 28 Discussion	Self-Care	
May 1	Oral presentations	
May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying Safe in the Healthcare System • Instructor evaluation 	

May 5 Discussion

Dosage Forms