

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Department of Health and Kinesiology

Course Syllabus

ALHS 3302

Human Diseases

“Let me see in the sufferer also the human being”

Maimonides

Spring 2009

Instructor

Cheryl M. Cooper R.N., MSN; PhD.

Course Information

Title: ALHS 3302

Credit Hours: 3

Class Meeting Time: MWF 8 – 8:50AM

Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Cheryl Cooper

Phone: 903 566 7263

E Mail: ccooper@uttyler.edu

***Office Hours (please make an appointment)**

Monday 10-1 (for MWF classes)

Tuesday 11- 2 (for T Tr Classes)

*I will attempt to consistently be available during these times...however, sometimes unexpected meetings or other problems occur. For that reason making an appointment is always a good plan

PART 1

Course Requirements:

1. Satisfactory completion of assigned readings and activities (including exams and quizzes), according to the criteria listed for each.
2. Active participation in class discussions and activities.

Grading Criteria

There will be two exams, and one project.

Exam #1 /100 %

Exam #2 /100 %

Disease focus /Interview /100%

Other Activities /100%

Your grade will reflect the **average** (in percent) you receive on all of these.

90 % -100% = A

80% - 89 % = B

70% – 80 % = C

60% – 69% = D

59% or less = F

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the general principles and concepts related to human disease, through verbal and written responses to questions posed in class and on exams.

Concepts and principles will include the following:

- the principles of medical diagnosis
- the structure and function of cells and tissues, including cell replication, inflammation and repair
- Immunity
- Pathogenic microorganisms
- Water, Electrolyte and Acid- base Balance
- Differences between acute and chronic diseases, and between communicable and non-communicable diseases

2. Describe the major features of some of the most common categories of human diseases and/or conditions) including :

- Congenital and Hereditary Diseases
- Neoplastic Diseases
- Abnormalities of blood coagulation
- Circulatory Diseases
- Diseases associated with pregnancy

3. Describe the major features of the body systems and/or organs, and of **some of** the most common diseases that affect these systems/organs- including the following:

- The Cardiovascular system
- The Respiratory system
- The Breast
- The Female Reproductive System
- The Urinary System
- The Male Reproductive System
- The Liver and Biliary system

- The Pancreas (Diabetes Mellitus)
- The Gastrointestinal Tract
- The Endocrine Glands
- The Nervous System
- The Muskuloskeletal System

4. Discuss some of the current issues related to human disease. (see OVERVIEW document)

5. Demonstrate an increased awareness about some of the real lived experiences of persons who have a chronic disease or condition. This will be accomplished by the interview/disease focus project described at the end of this document.

PART 2

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BELOW

TEACHING/ LEARNING PHILOSOPHY FOR THIS COURSE

The information in this course is fundamental if one is to become an effective health professional. It requires that students read carefully and participate in activities both inside and outside of class. In other words it involves *active learning* – you will often be involved actively in meeting course objectives, rather than in passively receiving information from the instructor

OTHER INFORMATION

- **Retaining copies of submitted materials:** it is your responsibility to retain a copy (hard copy or on your computer) of ALL papers that you turn in to me . With hundreds of documents being turned in each semester it is possible that occasionally, a document may be misplaced or lost. Assignments must be submitted in a folder labeled with your name, the course name and number. **Please be sure they are attached securely to the folder.**
Some assignments will be submitted to Digital Drop Box on BB.
- **Attendance:** students should sign the attendance sheet provided each class day. This is for my own records. Class attendance is up to the student, however, and I will not penalize students who choose not to attend class regularly. **However**, it has been my experience that students who appear in class regularly, usually receive a significantly better grade than do those who are “strangers”. There will **OFTEN** be information presented in class that will not be in the text. There will

be class discussions from time to time. **Information from these discussions will appear in exam questions.**

- **Handouts and Lecture/Discussion Material:** If you must miss class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain handouts or other information that you have missed. This must be obtained from CLASSMATES, not from the instructor. It may be wise to make friends with a classmate or two – preferably ones who attend class regularly and take good notes.

Recent educational research indicates that, in terms of comprehension and retention, distribution of Power Point presentations to students may not be as effective as listening, participating in class discussions, and good note-taking. For this reason, POWER POINT presentations will NOT ordinarily be provided as handouts. You should plan to take notes, in the old fashioned way, unless you are very familiar with the material or have an excellent memory.

- **Exams:** all exams will be open-book and open notes. This format is being developed in anticipation of the increasing number of on-line course offerings. In addition, there is some convincing evidence that open-book exams may be superior in fostering critical thinking skills and long term retention of knowledge.

Exams will be **strictly timed**, and seating arrangements may be changed for exams. **Expect this!** Almost without exception, students report that these exams are **at least** as challenging as the closed- book type. There is a guide to taking open-book exams on BB.

No specific points are offered or deducted relative to class attendance. BUT - attendance could make a difference if a student lacks one or two points in making the next best grade. In such a case, pop quiz grades, the attendance record, and class participation may be considered. This is not guaranteed, however. I will use my best judgment when assigning grades – and make an effort to be fair to all. You may schedule an appointment to discuss grades or any other concerns with me.

There will be no make-up exams except under VERY UNUSUAL circumstances. (I allowed a make-up exam last year when a student was training to go to Afghanistan– I considered that to be an *unusual circumstance!*)

- **NOTE:** *I will be pleased to talk with you about any of the requirements (or any other concerns you may have), at the end of class or by appointment.*

Course Requirements:

1. Complete assigned readings and activities in a timely manner.
2. Actively participate in class discussions and activities.

Required Learning Experiences

1. **Assigned readings from the required text.**

Class discussions and activities are based on the assumption that students have read the assigned chapters before class.

3. **Regular attendance and participation in class discussions and activities.**

*Please Nota Bene (Note Well): It has been my experience that students who are present in class regularly (in both mind and body) tend to do better, in terms of grades, than those who are not. If you cannot attend class for any reason, it is **your** responsibility to obtain any information you may have missed. Please do not ask me to provide this information.*

As stated earlier, no specific points are offered or deducted relative to class attendance or participation. BUT – both could make a difference if a student lacks one or two points in making the next best grade. In such a case, pop quiz grades, the attendance record, and class participation may be considered. This is not guaranteed, however. I will use my best judgment when assigning grades – and make an effort to be fair to all. You may schedule an appointment to discuss grades or any other concerns with me.

4. **Re private conversations during class** - I am **quite offended** by this, whether the conversation is with your neighbor or by text messaging. If you need to engage in conversations (or need a nap) during scheduled class time, it may be best to miss class.
5. *Please retain a copy of **all** papers you hand in to me- in case one either does not find its way to my hands- or mysteriously disappears. I receive many documents from students each week- from the other sites and from Tyler students. Occasionally one or two are misplaced.*

ABOUT EXAMS and GRADING

- There will be at least two exams, one project and various in and out of classroom activities. It is possible that there will be some pop quizzes during the semester. All exams will be open book, open notes, open everything. This format is being developed in anticipation of the increasing number of on-line course offerings. Exams will be strictly timed, and seating arrangements may be changed for exams. **Expect this.**

NOTE WELL! most students who have taken open book exams in this course have found them to be at least as challenging as closed book exams. (**See *Taking an Open Book Exam*** document on BB under course documents).

- Types of Questions: exams (and quizzes) will consist primarily of objective, matching, true/false or multiple choice questions. You may have to provide a

rationale for your responses. It is very likely that there will be one or two questions requiring a response in the form of a brief discussion.

- **Exam questions will be drawn from any or all of the information presented in class (verbal or written), and from information you may have gathered from class activities (unless I specifically tell you otherwise). On exam day, be sure to bring your text, and all of your notes, including data from activities/projects.**

- You may ask any question of me during the exam. If I perceive your question to be too close to what I am trying to test, I may ask you to “buy” the answer for the same number of points I would give for the correct answer. You may refuse this.

- Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

Midterm exam / 100%

Final Exam / 100%

Project / 100%

Other Learning Activities / 100%

Final Grade: based on average percent

E.g. 100% on both exams and project = $\frac{300}{3} = 100\%$

90 - 100% = A

80 - 89% = B

70 - 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

<60 = F

- **Make-Up Exams:** There will be no make-up exams. It is possible that exceptions will be made under VERY UNUSUAL circumstances Example: Last year, a student took a make-up exam because of a conflict with his military training, in preparation to go to Afghanistan. Another student’s grandmother’s funeral was on the exam day. These situations would be considered “*unusual*”. Missing an exam because of a “cheap flight” opportunity to Cancun, would not be an “acceptable exception”, in my judgment. The birth of an infant (if you are one of the parents) would be considered an “acceptable exception”.

PART 3

Miscellaneous Policies

1. LATE ASSIGNMENTS.

All assignments-written and oral-are due on the date assigned. If, due to an excused illness or other emergency, the project cannot be submitted on time, please try to notify me at least 2 days in advance (the sooner the better). Have an alternative plan! It is not ordinarily acceptable to notify me that a project is not ready on the day it is due.

2. EXTRA CREDIT.

Extra credit projects are not available. Rather than do additional work on a different project, you are encouraged to focus more time and attention on the required course assignments.

3. WRITTEN WORK - QUALITY

Work that is not professional – that is, messy, and/or laden with grammatical and spelling mistakes, will be returned for rewriting. The earned score of the rewritten paper will be reduced by 20%.

4. BACK-UP COPIES

Students are expected to keep and have available upon request back-up copies of all written assignments

5. ATTENDANCE and MISSED CLASSES

Please sign the attendance record each class day.
Again...I will not take attendance formally....but regular attendance is expected.

If you must miss class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain handouts or other information that you missed. This must be obtained from CLASSMATES, not from the instructor. It may be wise to make friends with a classmate or two – preferably ones who feels that class attendance is a moral issue!!!!

NOTE: I will be pleased to talk with you about any of the requirements (or any other concerns you may have), at the end of class or by appointment.

CLASS PARTICIPATION – IS EXPECTED! I will frequently and randomly ask students to respond to a question verbally in class. I understand that some students are reluctant to speak up and/or are more or less articulate than others. I expect you to try ...that's all. Being wrong is perfectly fine... not trying (see item #2 under required learning experiences above)

See item 2 above

Like regular attendance, class participation may influence your final grade if it is marginal (*almost* and A or a B)

Participation includes but is not limited to the following:

- Questions in class
- Questions after or before class
- Questions in my office
- Questions by e mail or telephone (that involve clarification of class material)
- Responding to questions in class
- Participating in class discussions
- Written or verbal responses to videos or speakers as assigned.
- Suggestions (politely offered) for making class time more meaningful, valuable or interesting for students (and teacher)
- AND last but not least**showing up!**

PART 4

University policies (Taken from the Handbook of Operating Procedures) that you should be aware of and adhere to.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. A student shall make every attempt to notify each instructor in advance, or as soon as possible thereafter, when there is a legitimate (unforeseen or unavoidable) reason for being absent.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

. . . Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student for any of the following acts or omissions:

. . . Scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- (i) "Cheating" includes, **but is not limited to:**
- copying from another student's test paper;
 - using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
 - failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;

- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; . . .

“Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

“Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

A. FOOD AND DRINK IN CLASSROOMS

Consumption of food and drink in university classrooms is prohibited.

INDOOR SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

The University of Texas at Tyler is an indoor smoke-free campus. No smoking will be permitted in any building, hallway, classroom, laboratory, restroom, lounge, or other indoor location.

B. Religious Holy Days. In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.911, a student may be excused from exams or assignments in observance of a religious holy day if at least 5 days before the date of absence the student delivers written notice of the absence to the instructor(s) of the class (es) by either (1) personal hand-delivery, with acknowledgement of receipt by instructor(s) or (2) certified mail, return receipt requested.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section.

A student shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after an absence due to observance of a religious holy day provided the student has met the conditions listed above.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Office located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579).

