

## UTRGV COURSE SYLLABUS

BS in Biomedical Sciences: Independent Research I (BMED 3121\_02) Fall 2015

Meeting times and location: Tuesday 3:30-5:30p SABH 1.106 (Tuesday- Oct 13, Nov 10 and Dec 1)

Instructor Name: Dr. Saraswathy (Saras) Nair

UTRGV email address: saraswathy.nair@utrgv.edu

Office location & hours: BRHP 1.103; by appointment only through Ms. Danielle Steadman (Call 882-5744/5778)

***All syllabi are subject to change. Students will be notified of changes.***

### Textbook and/or Resource Material

No textbook required.

### Course Description and Prerequisites

Independent research I (fall 2015 and spring 2016) will include:

#### Oct 13

- Discussion of the syllabus and expectations
- Mapping a course for your future – overview of 3 and 4 year options, 4+ 1 programs, health/biomedical careers
- Evidence based medicine –information about summer research opportunities-clinical/biomedical, MBRS-RISE / FRI program
- Introduction to the 16 diseases and conditions

#### Nov 10

- Evidence-based research as a mode of secondary research in the biomedical sciences. Students will be helped to develop and revise search terms based on the 16 diseases and conditions. ( Research Librarian and Writing center-Dr. Randall Monty/Tutors)-3.30-4.30pm
- Reading Comprehension-Part I (Learning Center-Dr. Leslie Jones)-4.30-5.00pm
- Border/Community health issues (Ms. Carolyn Barney)-5.00-5.30pm

#### Dec 1

- Move from research question of inquiry to actual research. Students will be helped with strategies for finding answers to the specific questions they have about their topics. ( Research Librarian and Writing center-Dr. Randall Monty/Tutors)-3.30-4.30pm
- Reading Comprehension-Part II (Learning Center-Dr. Leslie Jones)-4.30-5.30pm

### Learning Objectives for the Course

As you do the activities in this course, you will work toward demonstrating competence in each of these programmatic objectives:

- Critically examine the science behind disease prevention and health promotion (Level 1)
- Describe the basic principles of scientific inquiry including common research approaches, methods and designs. (Level 1)
- Develop critical thinking, scientific reading and writing skills in biomedicine. (Level 1)

## Grading Policies

Attendance is **mandatory** at the 3 sessions/semester that is scheduled for this course. Your attendance at all 3 sessions will count as 60% of your grade. You will also be graded by your submitted written assignments (40%). The written assignments (1) will include:

**A one page single- spaced (11 pt font) summary of one of 16 diseases/research question with citations in AMA format**

**NOTE: Makeup/alternative assignments will only be given to students who have documentable major reasons for not attending solely at the instructor's discretion.**

## Calendar of Activities

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <http://my.utrgv.edu> at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Important dates for Fall 2015 include:

August 31	Classes Begin
September 7	Labor Day Holiday; university closed
September 16	Last day to drop a class before it appears on the transcript and counts toward the "6-drop" limit. Last day to receive a 100% refund for dropped classes (other policies apply when a student is withdrawing from all classes).
November 18	Drop/Withdrawal Deadline; last day for students to drop the course and receive a DR grade. After this date, students will be assigned a letter grade for the course that will count on the GPA.
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday; university closed
December 10	Study Day; no classes
December 11-17	Final Exams

Date	Activity	Attendance %	Report/written assignment%	Contact
Oct 13	Seminar	20		Instructor
Nov 10	Seminar	20		Instructor
Dec 1	Seminar and 1 <sup>st</sup> Report	20		Instructor
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>Report due</b>		<b>40%</b>	<b>Instructor</b>

## UTRGV Policy Statements

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at [accessibility@utrgv.edu](mailto:accessibility@utrgv.edu). **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at [accessibility@utrgv.edu](mailto:accessibility@utrgv.edu).

### MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available Nov. 18 – Dec. 9, 2015. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

### ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

#### SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; 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. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

#### SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student's time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

#### COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the "3-peat rule" and the "6-drop" rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.