

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY- Brownsville Campus**  
**BMED 3224-02: Independent Research IV**  
**Spring 2016, Wednesdays 1-3pms, room LHSB 1.121**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Andrea Schwarzbach**  
**Dept. of Health and Biomedical Sciences**  
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**Contact Methods:**

You may contact me using any of the information shown above, preferably email. Please feel free to reach me if you have any questions regarding content, if you need clarification, or would like assistance.  
Office hours: Thursday 10am-1pm and 3-5pm or by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course is designed for students interested in becoming health care professionals such as medical doctors, dentists, physician assistants, pharmacists and veterinarians. Students will explore the medical field by shadowing a health care professional in a variety of settings and observe their daily activities. This will provide students with background knowledge in issues related to clinical care such as privacy, professionalism, and compassion and an opportunity to learn the patient interview and exam.

**Course Pre-Requisites, Co-Requisites, and/or other restrictions:**

Admission to the BMED program. Completion of Independent Research I-III

**Course Objectives:**

- The student will be able to integrate knowledge of previous BMED courses with different clinical experiences.
- The student will be able to develop and/or improve their understanding of the medical field.
- The student will be able to develop and/or improve their understanding of the daily activities of health care committees.
- The student will have a greater understanding of current health care issues and practices.

**Departmental Learning Outcomes:**

- The student will be able to communicate clinical concepts by oral and written means.
- Students will acquire a basic knowledge of the clinical activities in the health profession.

**Textbook:** The Medical Interview: Mastering skills for Clinical Practice 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, John L Coulehan & Marian R. Block; ISBN-13: 978-0-8036-1246-4

**Course Requirements:**

- Student is responsible for contacting preceptors and scheduling of clinical sessions.

**Clinical Preceptor-Student Agreement:**

- Establish how student will be introduced to patients.
- Establish a protocol as to how and when a patient is asked if the student can observe the physician-patient interaction.
- Establish boundaries and expectations as to when a pre-medical student's questions are to be asked and answered

**Evaluation:**

Shadowing/Journal: Documentation of hours and biweekly summary of activities: 60 pts., meeting with Dr. Schwarzbach biweekly at arranged time.

Final reflection essay 20 pts., due May 6, 2016. A term paper on the experiences of the clinic is completed at the end of the course. This assignment must be typed and at least 2 ½ - 3 pages in length. Reflect on your experience shadowing this semester. Get into details about what you observed (min of 3 specific cases).

**Shadowing**

Student will be required to complete a minimum of 2 credit hours of shadowing. (15 weeks at a minimum of 3 hours per week).

**Mentor Evaluation**

The program director will contact each mentor towards the end of the term for an evaluation. Mentors will be evaluating each student regarding their professionalism while shadowing. This involves appropriate and respectful communication with mentors and patients, promptness, engagement (i.e., not playing on cell phone, asking questions, and appropriate attire).

## Log Sheet

The hours and days shadowed must be logged and signed after each day/week/month.

### Proposed topics:

- Introduction to the physician and patient communication
- The medical interview
- Chief complaint and present illness
- Past medical history and family history.
- SOAP notes
- Basic skills in practice
- Interviewing the geriatric patient
- Cultural competence in the interview
- Difficult clinical-patient interactions
- How to tell bad news

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Springbreak March 14-18

Drop/Withdrawal deadline April 13

Study Day May 5, no class

Finals May 6-12

### **SYLLABUS ADDENDUM - UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

#### **UTRGV Policy Statements**

*The UTRGV disability accommodation, mandatory course evaluation statement and sexual harassment statement are required on all syllabi.* Additional policy statements are optional, such as those covering attendance, academic integrity, and course drop policies.

#### 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.