Introduction to the Professions of Medicine MDU 4003 Syllabus: Spring 2015
E-learning Canvas Online Course
3 Credit Hours

Course Professor:
Mariam Rahmani, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry

Course Coordinator:
Adam Reid, M.S., Department of Psychiatry & Department of Clinical and Health Psychology
Andrew Guzick, B.A., Department of Psychiatry & Department of Clinical and Health Psychology

Primary Contacts:
Please direct all questions or concerns to our Head Teaching Assistant, Fabliha Anbar, who can be reached at MEL4011@psychiatry.ufl.edu. Please give at least a week for a response, as sometimes she has to wait for guidance from the coordinator or professor regarding an issue. However, she has held this position for several semesters and will be able to answer a majority of your questions or concerns promptly.

Secondary Contacts:
For EMERGENCIES ONLY, please contact one of the Course Coordinator, Adam Reid or Andrew Guzick. These issues include: medical withdrawals and medical emergencies. It is preferred that you contact one of them at reidam@phhp.ufl.edu or guzick@ufl.edu. If you have an issue you wish to bring to the coordinator’s attention that is a non-emergency, please contact the Head Teaching Assistant and she will address your issue or forward it to the coordinator.

Support Services: Problems with the website (such as not being able to log in, not being able to attach a document, not being able to click on a link, or not being able to view a video or reading) should be directed to the UF computing Help Desk at 352-392-HELP.

Course Description: The goal of this class is to be very different from any of your other pre-medical classes; this class is designed to provide you practical knowledge about what the day-to-day is like for providers who practice in a variety of medical field specialties. We hope this course will broaden your knowledge about how many types of “doctors” are out there, clarify and/or confirm your beliefs about what various providers actually do, and ultimately help you make career choices that will be best for you.

Educational Philosophy: The educational philosophy of the Department of Psychiatry is to provide students a learning environment that is current, interactive, and supportive. The online and unconventional nature of the course provides students with flexibility for listening to lectures, submitting assessments, and writing discussion posts. The class can be completed
without ever setting foot on the University of Florida campus or ever leaving home. With this freedom comes responsibility and expectations. The course is accredited for 3 UF credits and as a result, it requires at least 3 hours per week in direct “contact,” as well as 6 additional hours to complete assignments and course-related research. Due to the online nature of the course, the contact hours have been replaced with online lectures and readings. In total, this course should require up to 9 hours per week, just as any other 3-credit course would normally require.

Students are asked to check their email at least twice a week (preferably on Monday and Fridays), to pay attention to announcements on CANVAS, and to keep an account of all due dates. We expect that you have a working UF email address, and that you monitor the grades you receive each week, including the feedback you receive about your discussion posts.

**MDU4004:** Students successful in this class are encouraged to apply to MDU4004- Physician’s Shadowing. This course gives you the opportunity to shadow a physician, typically of your choice, to get a more involved look at the practice of medicine. For questions regarding MDU4004, please email mel4012@psychiatry.ufl.edu.

**The MDU 4004 application will be available on-line later in the semester. We will send out more information on this topic when it is available.**

**You must earn an A in MDU 4003 to be accepted to MDU 4004. If you are applying to MDU 4004 for the coming semester, assume you are safe to apply if you are on course to come close to an A. We will ask you provide a screen shot of your MDU 4003 grades at the time of your submission.**

**Elearning CANVAS Online Course Format:** All enrolled students must navigate to UF’s Elearning server found at http://lss.at.ufl.edu and login with their Gatorlink username and password. In order for the course to be delivered properly to your computer, it must be configured. This includes:
1) installing the latest JAVA program
2) configuring your Internet and security settings properly
3) disabling pop-up blockers (pop-ups must be allowed).

Detailed instructions on how to do this are available on the CANVAS website above and a configuration-checker is available on the login screen. Failure to configure your computer may result in problems such as: not being able to view videos, not being able to click links and/or readings, or not being able to submit written or extra credit assignments. Only work submitted through the website can be accepted and we will not accept work submitted via email. Please only email submissions to the coordinator after 1) alerting UF Help and 2) taking a screen shot of the difficulty. The course faculty and staff are not able to assist students with computer/website issues. For help with this aspect, please DO NOT email the course coordinator or staff, but rather call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-HELP.

**General Overview of Course Content:** The course is divided into 14 lessons, found in the “Modules” tab in Canvas. You should be able to complete all course materials without ever leaving the “Modules” tab, as each module contains the lectures, videos, readings, quizzes, and
discussions that are due that week. Each module generally introduces and overviews two major issues in the field. A typical module consists of two lectures, multiple readings, and two short answer quizzes. Every few lessons there will be a discussion post where you will be asked to post an original discussion point on a specific topic.

**Point breakdown:**

Quizzes (28 total worth 10 points each) = 50% of grade  
Discussions (3 total worth 10 points each) = 50% of grade

**Grading Scale:** Final Grades are determined by the following scale and will be posted in Gradebook 2 on Canvas. Grades will not be rounded up, and there are NO minus grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>94+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-93.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>87-89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>84-86.99%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>74-76.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-73.99</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>67-69.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>64-66.99%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-63.99%</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>&lt; 64%</td>
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Fall, 2014  
MDU 4003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Due Dates Wk#</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Due by 5:00PM*</th>
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</table>
| 1                    | Larry Rooks, M.D.  
Geneen Brandt, M.D.  
Norrie Novak, M.D. | Course Introduction and Syllabus | January 16th |
| 2                    | Rebecca Pauly, M.D.  
Trey DuBose, M.D.  
Kevin Ferguson, M.D.  
Larry Lottenberg, M.D. | Family Medicine; Pediatrics | January 23rd |
| 3                    | Tina Lam, M.D. | Internal Medicine; Emergency Medicine | January 30th |
| 4                    | John Davis, M.D.  
David Guzick, M.D.  
Jack Sedwick, M.D. | Surgery; Surgical Subspecialties | February 6th |
| 5                    | DISCUSSION 1 DUE | OBGYN; ENT | February 13th |
| 6                    | Jay Lynch, M.D.  
Pat Abbit, M.D.  
James Crawford, M.D.  
Vini Vijayan, M.D. | Radiology; Pathology | February 20th |
| 7                    | Tony Tuli, M.D.  
Jason Rosenburg, M.D.  
John Hardcastle, Ph.D.  
Tim Bowen, M.D. | Plastic Surgery; Optometry Simulations; Geriatrics | February 27th |
| 8                    | Jesse Hill, M.D.  
Donald Canton, M.D.  
Bill Winter, M.D. | Anesthesiology; Immunology | March 20th |
| 9                    |                       |       | March 13th |
* All quiz and essay assignments are due on the specified dates by 5:00 PM EST. Thus, BEFORE each Friday deadline you should submit your quiz and your essay. Requests to accept essays that were turned in minutes before the deadline, will not be accepted. The system tends to lag due to many students submitting at the last minute, so please try to submit early so you can get a grade for your essay! 

**Video Lectures and Interviews:** Videos typically include a lecture or interview from a professional who has established expertise in the area of the lesson. All lectures and videos in this course are available at any time online during the semester.

Some video slides are presented in Microsoft PowerPoint and will require a version of PowerPoint viewer. All of these software programs are currently available to be downloaded for free from the Internet. If a video is not working for you, it is likely because you do not have the latest Real Player or Windows Media Player installed or your computer is not configured correctly (see above). Students who have trouble with the technical aspect are asked to contact the UF Help Desk at 352-392-HELP for assistance in updating their computer software BEFORE requesting assistance from the Course Coordinator or MDU staff.

**Recommended Readings and Web Links:** Most of the lecturers were asked to recommend articles that support and enhance the comprehension of the lesson topic. We also did our best to
select material that addresses current issues in the field. Some of the quiz questions may require that you have understanding of specific aspects from these readings and websites. It will also benefit you to be familiar with some of these readings and websites in responding to the weekly assigned essay prompt. A free version of Adobe’s Acrobat Reader and Microsoft’s Word Reader is required to view the readings. Once again, if you experience technical difficulties in downloading these files, then please seek assistance from the UF Help Desk at 352-392-HELP prior to contacting the Course Coordinator or MEL staff.

**Opinion Disclaimer:** Please note that sometimes the professionals being videotaped or the author of an assigned article may offer an opinion about healthcare, perhaps even a controversial one. We wish to encourage open-minded thinking and evaluation in this course, so we also have web-posts if you wish to voice your own opinions. However, it is important to recognize that the opinions expressed by the course lecturers/authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Course Professors, Teaching Assistants, the College of Medicine, the Department of Psychiatry, or the University of Florida.

**Quiz Assessments:** All of the lessons contain two quizzes located in the “Quizzes” or “Modules” Tab consisting of multiple choice questions each worth 10 points per quiz. Most questions can be answered from watching the video lectures but some are based on the readings and web links. They are designed to not only ensure that you have viewed the lecture and completed the readings, but to also test your ability to apply what you have learned.

All quizzes should be graded shortly after the deadline has passed. You should then be able to view your score. If you find any of the questions ambiguous or if you have a conflict with the scoring, then you may contact the Course Coordinator via email. However, all quiz questions have been tested on several studies to ensure fairness and accuracy.

**Discussion Assignments:** One discussion prompt is assigned for each 5 lessons. These prompts can be found under the “Assignments” or “Modules” tab. For each discussion prompt you will be required to post a 250 word discussion post. This post must be your original work and show critical thinking on the issue. This post must also include two outside references as well. Wikipedia references can NOT be used. All references must be listed at the bottom of the essay AND include an in-text citation (see below). You MUST answer all parts of the prompt (i.e., touch on every question I ask). Your post will be graded on a 10 point scale. I will consider your critical thinking, use of outside information, professionalism, thoroughness, and adherence to requirements.

**Example of a Citation:**

Citations can be in MLA, APA, or in the following form:

I am writing this example essay for MDU 4003. Knowing the importance of citing correctly, I looked up “How to cite for MDU” (1). I hope this example citation paragraph helps students understand the importance of doing citations correctly.
I made these discussions versus essays because I want you to read how your peers approached the prompt (you will be able to see their responses after you submit your discussion). Don’t miss out on a chance to learn from your peers. Knowledge on these topics will make you stand out from your peers during medical school interviews, job interviews, shadowing, etc.

**Special Note on Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is presenting another’s work as your own. Cheating and plagiarizing are against University of Florida Student Conduct Code and will not be tolerated in this course. Every submission in this course is submitted to http://www.turnitin.com and checked for cheating and plagiarism. Turnitin.com is an online service that compares entries to each other and to every page on the World Wide Web and other assignments turned in this semester and in previous semesters. If portions of your document were directly copied and pasted from another student’s assignment (past or present) or from a World Wide Web page, that constitutes plagiarism. Any form of plagiarism will have to be investigated as set out by the University of Florida Student Conduct Code. Procedures on investigations can be found at: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/. Students in this course caught cheating and plagiarizing will be immediately failed, and prosecuted in the UF Honor Court. It may be acceptable to place A FEW comments “in quotes” with a citation, but it is NEVER acceptable to copy and paste a long string of text from a source, even if it is cited and even if you change a few words. Anything that is not in quotations MUST be paraphrased into your own words! Also, please note that UF policies require you to create “original” work for each course. Thus, students are not permitted to submit papers previously prepared outside of this class, such as in high school courses and other UF courses.

**Policy on Work Submitted Late:** As previously mentioned, by waiting until the last minute to begin working you may run the risk of computer problems. Websites being down or your personal computer giving you technical problems is not an excuse for late work. For this reason, we strongly suggest working on all discussions and quizzes at least 1-2 days ahead of time to avoid such issues.

Since students are informed of topic areas and deadlines at the beginning of the semester, it is difficult for us to accept late assignments. Nevertheless, every semester we hear the fantastical stories of why students could not turn in an assignment they knew about months in advance. If you sincerely believe that you have a legitimate reason for missing work then you may request an extension from the Course Coordinator BEFORE the deadline passes or submit a doctor’s note within 72 hours of due date. These will be verified, however, so please learn from your colleagues mistakes and do not falsify them as you will fail and answer to the honor court.