Introduction to the Health Professions (ST: BIOL 204)
Fall 2018

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Class Meeting: Mon. and Wed., 4:30-5:20pm, LSS 277
August 20, 2018- October 10, 2018 (this is a half-semester, 8-week class)

Office Hours: By appointment: please schedule using VandalStar.

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This one (1) credit course is primarily for first and second year students, but all students interested in healthcare careers (from all different majors) are welcome. The primary content of this course is centered on a series of presentations by guests from a variety of health professions, ranging from occupational therapy to dentistry. Students will learn about the presenters’ educational process and personal journey to become a professional in their chosen field, as well as the responsibilities, professional interactions, joys, and challenges of working in that field. Discussions and assignments are designed to broaden the perspective of the healthcare field for the student, and to begin preparing them to be successful applicants in their chosen field. This is a dynamic course and the content varies from one year to the next due to the availability of guest speakers and number of students registered.

B. LEARNING OUTCOMES
After this course, you will be able to...

- Identify a variety of health career options that are available to you.
- Identify resources to assist you in preparing for a career in the health professions.
- Identify core competencies expected of health professionals and competitive applicants to a health professional school (interpersonal and intrapersonal skills)
- Understand admissions requirements for your top choice schools (both curricular and extra-curricular)
- Develop a series of short and long-term goals to prepare for a health professions career.
- Engage in candid self-assessment regarding your own level of preparation and commitment.

These learning outcomes align with three of the University of Idaho Learning Outcomes (http://www.uidaho.edu/learningoutcomes):

1. Learn and Integrate - Through independent learning and collaborative study, attain, use, and develop knowledge in the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences, with disciplinary specialization and the ability to integrate information across disciplines.
2. Communicate - Acquire, articulate, create and convey intended meaning using verbal and non-verbal methods of communication that demonstrate respect and understanding in a complex society.
3. Clarify purpose and perspective - Explore one’s life purpose and meaning through transformational experiences that foster an understanding of self, relationships, and diverse global perspectives.
C. CLASS TEXT

There is no required text for this class. However, the following books are highly recommended for all Pre-Health focused students:


*Note:* both can be purchased online (http://www.naahp.org/Publications.aspx) and are also available to be checked out free of cost from the “Pre-Health Resource Library” (a.k.a. Liz’s office).

D. GRADING

You are expected to complete all in-class and BBLearn assignments. **All assignments are due on the specified due date, no later than 11:55pm.** Partial credit will be awarded for assignments received within 72 hours of the due date, and zero credit will be awarded for assignments received after that. Additional details for class assignments can be found in BBLearn and the ‘Assignments’ section of this document.

| Attendance | 15 class sessions (15 points each) | 225 |
| Self-Assessments | 2 assessments (35 points each) | 70 |
| Reflection Questions | 8 Reflection Questions (20 points each) | 160 |
| Program Requirements Spreadsheet | 45 points | 45 |
| **Total Points Possible** | **500** |

**GRADE SCALE**

- A = 90-100% 450-500
- B = 80-89% 400-449
- C = 70-79% 350-399
- D = 60-69 300-349
- F = 0 – 59% 0-299

E. ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken every session and counts for a significant percentage of your grade in this class. Due to the nature of this course, much of the information that will be made available to you will be experiential, delivered by health professionals who have graciously volunteered their time to come share their knowledge. **Unexcused absences or tardiness, defined as more than 10 minutes late, will result in point reductions (zero points will be awarded for unexcused absences and 5 points will be deducted for tardiness).** If you must miss class due to a documented illness or emergency, please email me right away. **Punctuality and reliability are signs of professionalism and are crucial skills for pre-health professionals.**

F. ACTIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION

Guest speakers representing various health professions will present in a lecture format. You are expected to actively participate by asking questions of guest speakers, regardless of your level of interest in that particular career. Please review the “questions for speakers” handout in the BBLearn “Additional Class Resources” folder and refer to questions as a guide.

G. CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

In any learning environment, it is essential that all members feel as free and safe as possible in their participation. Please treat others, including your classmates and our guest speakers, with mutual respect and courtesy. You can show this by arriving on time, actively listening to your peers and presenters, and asking questions each class period. Should you feel class interactions do not reflect an environment of civility and respect, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your concern.
H. ELECTRONICS USE
Please refrain from eating, talking, or text messaging others during presentations from guest speakers. Please silence cell phones for the duration of the class and only use your laptop computer or other electronic device during specific classroom activities as indicated by the instructor.

I. DISABILITIES
Please notify me of any disability related concerns as soon you are aware your educational experience in this course may be affected. Every effort to develop appropriate accommodations will be made. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services (DSS) located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306. Students should meet with the DSS staff at the beginning of each semester to set up accommodations so that they may notify Instructor(s) as soon as possible regarding accommodation needs.

J. TESTS/QIZZES
There are no tests or quizzes in this course. You may now commence your celebratory dance.😊

K. ASSIGNMENTS

Self-Assessments: You will complete two self-assessments in BBLearn – one in the first week of class, and one in the last. Many of you are just starting your college career. When you complete self-assessment #1, there may be questions that you are not yet able to answer – that is OK. Do your best to provide a candid response to each question based upon where you are in your current stage of preparation. The goal is to gather a baseline of understanding and preparedness, helping you prioritize areas for future attention...and helping me understand areas in which I might be able to best support you as you progress through this journey. By the time you complete self-assessment #2 a mere two months later, you may be amazed at how much your responses have developed.

Reflection Questions: You will respond to a series of brief reflection questions in BBLearn after each guest speaker. Although both sets of questions will be due the following Sunday by 11:55pm, it is highly recommended that you begin working on each session’s reflection questions before the time of the next class rather than waiting to do both at the same time. This will help you to provide answers that are “fresh” in your mind.
- Reflection questions should be uploaded as a Word document.
- Please include your name and date at the top of each document.
- Please note that each assignment is based upon that week’s guest speaker(s). Thus, you will be unable to earn full credit for assignments if you miss one of the class sessions.

School Spreadsheet: You will develop a spreadsheet outlining requirements for at least three (3) health professional schools to which you may apply (e.g. three dental schools, three PT schools, etc.) A sample spreadsheet will be provided in BBLearn. If you have not yet decided upon a specific health profession focus, or are not sure if you even want to pursue a career in healthcare (both of which are totally OK!), select the area that is of highest interest to you at this moment. The process of researching the schools and understanding their diverse requirements will be greatly beneficial, even if you elect to pursue a different career path.

At a minimum, spreadsheets should include the following for each school:
- Prerequisite classes
- Number applied/accepted each year
- Average GPA of accepted students
- Entrance exam requirements
- Tuition/cost of attendance