



The Florida State University  
College of Medicine

# Health Issues in Medicine

BMS 6061

Fall 2010

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## Instructors

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### ***Course Director***

Leslie M. Beitsch, M.D., JD  
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### ***Faculty***

Charles Saunders, Ph.D.	645-2516
Dan Van Durme, M.D.	645-1539
Tom Liberti	245-4334
Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D	644-2291
Nancy Clark	644-9706
Gail Bellamy, PhD	644-3454
Dennis Tsilimingras, MD, MPH	644-2362

# Course Overview

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## Course Goals

The course in the Fall and Spring semesters of the second year of medical school covers critical issues in health policy, epidemiology, biostatistics and evidence-based medicine. The goal of the course is to provide the students with the opportunity to understand: 1) how the U.S. healthcare system functions, 2) how evidence-based medicine and information mastery are pivotal to their ability to assimilate and critique important health related information and, 3) the basic concepts of biostatistics and epidemiology as they relate to the healthcare field. At the completion of the course, you will have an understanding of the organization and structure of health care delivery in the U.S. and Florida, and the challenges that confront physicians and policy makers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Learning Objectives

### ***Students must be able to:***

#### ***Knowledge***

1. Understand the history of public health along with the traditional and emerging organizational structures.
2. Understand the emerging public health concerns at each stage of the life cycle, the needs of special populations, especially the elderly, disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups, and the range of policy and program responses.
3. Understand major issues in health policy including: costs of health care, access to health care, quality of health care, the role of prevention in health care, the needs of special populations, and ethical issues in health care delivery.
4. Understand the impact of information technology on health services.
5. Understand how health care is organized with special attention to the impact of managed care on public health, health care providers, and patients.
6. Understand emerging issues as health reform is debated at the national level by policy makers

#### ***Skills***

1. Demonstrate the ability to design and integrate prevention, quality assurance and sensitivity to special populations into a clinical practice.
2. Demonstrate the ability to make use of academic and other sources of information (including a growing volume of material available on the world-wide-web) about health policy and health policy-making.

3. Demonstrate the ability to apply evidence-based medicine to a case and describe its application to clinical practice.

### ***Attitudes/Behaviors***

1. Exhibit an attitude of collegiality and appreciation for teamwork in relationships with other students in the small group setting.
2. Exhibit well-developed interpersonal skills in interacting with other students and the instructors.
3. Exhibit appropriate value for the patient's familial, cultural, and spiritual circumstances within the context of the health care delivery system.
4. Demonstrate professionalism and high ethical principles and standards, respect for others, professional responsibility and social responsibility.
5. Exhibit a capacity for self-evaluation, moral reflection and ethical reasoning in the written assignments.
6. Demonstrate a respect for the roles of healthcare providers and an appreciation of the need to collaborate with others in caring for individual patients and in promoting public health and community service.

### ***Course Format***

Instruction is predominantly lecture-based, with some class discussion.

**Competencies**

FSUCOM – Competencies -Health Issues in Medicine BMS 6061		
Competency Domains	Competencies Covered in the Course	Methods of Assessment
Patient Care		
Medical Knowledge	X	Written exams and quizzes; research paper, EBM practicum, customized NBME Subject Exam
Practice-based Learning	X	Written exams and quizzes; research paper, EBM practicum
Communication Skills		
Professionalism		
System-based Practice	X	Written exams and quizzes; research paper, EBM practicum
NOTES:		

**Policies**

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

Candidates for the M.D. degree must be able to fully and promptly perform the essential functions in each of the following categories: Observation, Communication, Motor, Intellectual, and Behavioral/Social. However, it is recognized that degrees of ability vary widely between individuals. Individuals are encouraged to discuss their disabilities with the College of Medicine’s [Director of Student Counseling Services](#) and the FSU Student Disability Resource Center to determine whether they might be eligible to receive accommodations needed in order to train and function effectively as a physician. The Florida State University College of Medicine is committed to enabling its students by any reasonable means or accommodations to complete the course of study leading to the medical degree.

[The Office of Student Counseling Services](#)

Medical Science Research Building  
G146

Phone: (850) 645-8256 Fax: (850) 645-9452

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center

97 Woodward Avenue, South

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167

Voice: (850) 644-9566

TDD: (850) 644-8504

[sdrc@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu)

<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability>

## **Academic Honor Code**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm>.)

## **Attendance Policy**

The College of Medicine has detailed attendance policies as they relate to each cohort and events that conflict with course schedules. **See pages 27-29** of [FSUCOM Student Handbook](#) for details of attendance policy, notice of absences and remediation.

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## **Required Materials**

Thomas S. Bodenheimer and Kevin Grumbach, *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*, 5th Ed., (Stamford, Conn.: Appleton & Lange, 2009).

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## **Suggested Materials**

### **Electronic Resources:**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: <http://www.ahrq.gov>

American Medical Association: <http://www.ama-assn.org>

Association of American Medical Colleges: <http://www.aamc.org>

Association of University Programs in Health Administration: <http://www.aupha.org>

Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.dhhs.gov>  
Health Care Financing Administration: <http://www.hcfa.gov>  
Library of Congress: <http://thomas.loc.gov>  
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations: <http://www.jcaho.org>  
National Committee for Quality Assurance: <http://www.ncqa.org>  
National Institute on Aging: <http://www.nih.gov/nia>  
National Institutes of Health: <http://www.nih.gov>  
Institute of Medicine: <http://www.iom.edu>  
Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov>

**Other articles and materials:**

Selected articles from the following journals: Health Affairs, Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, The Milbank Quarterly, The New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, and the American Journal of Public Health.

## Grading

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### *Description of Assignments*

#### **Reading Assignments**

Complete each week's readings prior to class and come to class prepared to discuss.

#### **Research Paper**

In the Fall semester there will be a research paper that should be based on your thoughtful assessment of the readings, lecture material, assimilation with other assignments in other Year 2 classes, and class discussion. Topics for the term paper will be on health policy or patient safety/medical errors. Topics for papers are chosen by students, but must be approved by the course director.

One possible format for the research paper could be as follows: in Part I, write an opening statement that explains why the issue you have chosen is important; in Part II, provide an overview of the most important arguments and concepts supporting your topic; Part III, provide your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the positions reflected in Part II; and in Part IV, draw conclusions about the issue. The body of the paper will be 10 pages (double-spaced). The paper will require the use of "Endnotes" and should have both primary and secondary references. Students will be required to attend a presentation by the medical informatics faculty on accessing medical literature and use of endnotes provided during the Fall term.

#### **Medical Informatics**

Students will be required to attend a 2 hour session on searching for medical references and use of Endnotes in the Fall semester



with Nancy Clark. This will be offered the week of September 20<sup>th</sup> on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please attend one session.

Your course grade will be determined by your performance on Examinations, Issues Paper, Quizzes, and Professionalism.

Examinations: (50% of total grade) The material for examinations will come from lectures, the textbook, and other assigned readings. The format for examinations will be as follows:

Written examination items: multiple-choice questions (single best answer).

There will be four integrated block examinations in the Fall semester. These examinations will cover material in all the courses for the four weeks prior to each examination. The Health Issues in Medicine component of each examination will be as follows: Ten to fourteen 1 point multiple choice written questions

## ***Assignments and weights***

### **Research Paper**

*(25% of total grade)* One paper, 10 pages in length, will be required. The paper will be due by 5 pm on Monday, November 30th. Rough drafts or other evidence of progress may be requested by the course director during the period of paper development. Turning in paper late will result in the loss of 10% of grade per day late.

### **Objective Structured (Practical) Exam**

*(10% of total grade)* Students will be required to read and critically reflect on one assigned article for this evaluation. The article will be picked by the course director. The student presents their analysis in writing using an evidence-based approach. This will be offered as a take home practicum,

### **Quizzes**

*(15% of total grade)* They will cover material from the reading assignments for the week in which they are given.

### **Professionalism**

Students will be expected to demonstrate professional attributes that are in keeping with FSU College of Medicine policies. The FSU/College of Medicine Honor Code will be used as the overall benchmark for consideration of professional behavior and remediation if indicated.

### **Summary of Grading**

The final grade in Health Issues in Medicine 201 will be determined as follows:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Examinations (block exams)	50%

Research Paper	25%
Practicum (EBM)	10%
Quizzes	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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