

SYLLABUS for BIO 112: Healthcare Orientation, Fall 2011

Section 1: Tues 9:40 am – 11:40 am -- Halsey Science 457

Section 2: Tues 1:40 pm – 3:40 pm – Halsey Science 457

SWITCHING SECTIONS IS NOT ALLOWED.

Instructor:

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My schedule - including office hours - is posted on D2L under Content and on my door.

Course Description: (2 cr) An introduction to the cultural aspects of healthcare sciences for students declaring or considering a degree in any Healthcare-related program on campus. Topics will include: current "hot" fields and employment opportunities; roles and responsibilities of healthcare workers in society; professional ethics; scientific communication; planning (career choices, course selection, research experience, internships); and an introduction to campus faculty, staff and facilities. Students are encouraged to take this course as early as possible in their academic programs. May not also receive credit for BIO 111. (Fall/Spring)

FAQ #1: "I missed class because of __. Did I miss anything important?" Yes, you missed more than 7% of the semester (for context, this would be like going from a 75% "C" grade to a 68% "D+" grade). Because my role in the class is to lead discussion instead of taking notes, I'm not the best person to ask for notes on a missed class. I'll do my best to help you, assuming you have a documented excuse, but also be sure to ask a classmate for notes. **ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE DELETES 7% OF YOUR EARNED GRADE.**

FAQ #2: "I already had BIO 111 but switched to a major that requires 112. Do I need to take 112 now?" No! There is enough overlap between BIO 111 and 112 that you can obtain a "curriculum modification" that allows 111 to substitute for 112. See the main department office of your chosen major for assistance.

FAQ #3: "I have to take 112 for my major, but I'm a Junior/Senior and I'm so beyond this class! What's in it for me anyway?" BIO 112 is intended for students who: are in their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd semesters of college; have recently transferred to UW-Oshkosh; or who have recently changed to a Healthcare-oriented plan of study from something else.

If none of these describe you, *please*: keep an open mind, assist those who are less knowledgeable than yourself, and (at the very least) play along and do not begrudge less experienced students their opportunity to learn (the easy way) what you may have learned the hard way.

Besides, I've had plenty of upperclassmen tell me they have learned something in this course, and that they wish they'd had it as first-year students. Finally, it's your prerogative to ask your department to excuse you from taking the class (however I can tell you that in my department, BioMicro, the answer will be "no").

Course Objectives: Students in this course will be offered instruction to develop their:

1. Ability to make the most of their educational opportunities at UW Oshkosh.
2. Familiarity with the wide variety of human and non-human healthcare fields.
3. Strategies for career planning.
4. Personal progress toward appropriate professionalism.
5. Personal progress toward the habit of self-education.
6. Information literacy.
7. Critical thinking skills.
8. Writing and speaking skills.
9. Research skills.
10. Networking skills.

Special Needs and Accommodations: Students with disabilities are WELCOME in this class. A visit to my office is **required** to arrange accommodation. In addition to presenting your documentation, there is a form to be filled out and left with me. Find this Accommodation form on D2L Content.

You are expected to take notes on the entirety of the class, including discussions. It's a learned skill remaining engaged for a 2-hour stretch; note-taking will help.

Classroom Etiquette: *Please:* address me as “Dr. Vaughan”; arrive to class on time; if you are late, enter quietly and sit to the side; silence pagers and cell phones as soon as you enter the classroom; do not have side conversations during class; treat your classmates (and me!) with dignity, even if you disagree with their ideas; speak to me privately about any conflicts that hamper group work to which you are assigned; do not pack up to leave until I have indicated verbally that class is concluded for the day; if you have a question, raise your hand and say “Question!” so that I do not miss you; do not monopolize the class conversations, make time for everyone to speak; do not leave class early without notifying me ahead of time and giving a good reason.

Oral Recitations: It's very important in life to be able to speak with appropriate authority in front of groups of your peers (in this case, other people interested in healthcare). It takes practice to appear (or better to BE) confident and well-informed, especially when you are feeling under pressure (as often occurs in healthcare-related scenarios). Oral recitations will help build this skill.

It is normal to feel a bit shy speaking up in class, but by repetition you will overcome this during the semester. How you present yourself to your peers will impact not only your grade in this class, but your future ability to interview (compete) for jobs and fulfill any job that requires oral communication skill (and that is nearly ALL jobs).

Oral Recitations occur when **I randomly call on you by name** in class and ask you to answer a question that you have prepared ahead of time, usually from the Bad Science book that we will be reading. You are to **stand up and give your answer out loud**, in your own words, loud enough that the entire class can hear. You may refer to notes, but if you read them *verbatim*, you may lose credit (or be asked a follow-up question that forces you to answer extemporaneously).

Every answer you give in class will be scored as follows:

- 0 Wrong or no answer, or absent
- 1 Mixed-accuracy or minimal or “winging it” answer
- 2 Generally good answer, can improve accuracy and/or delivery
- 3 Good answer, accurate & well-delivered, with especially sophisticated insight (RARE)

If you show up to class prepared and speak clearly and loudly, you should have no trouble earning these points. Based on the size of the class, bear in mind you will likely have only 6 or 7 chances to earn all these points this term. Make the most of them!

Students who are very comfortable speaking and contribute regularly and well to discussions are what I call “frequent flyers”. Understand that it is my job to try to give equal “air time” to all students, maybe even making a point of calling on the quieter students more often.

Persons with severe stage fright should visit me in my office just as soon as possible so that we may do all that is possible to make you comfortable with Recitations.

Required Texts:

- McMillan VE. 2001. Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences. Bedford: Boston, MA. This is the *de facto* writing manual for the Biology & Microbiology Department and will serve you well for all science-related courses in which writing assignments are given. Its sections on graphs and statistics will be very useful this term, too.
- Ben Goldacre's Bad Science. 2009. An easy but worthwhile read about critical thinking about healthcare issues, authored by a physician who sees patients and teaches medical school in Britain. An older version has a mouse on the mainly white cover; if that's what you bought, you'll need the new chapter which is a free download at www.badscience.net. The new complete edition has a pill bottle on the red cover.
- Reading assignments online and uploaded to D2L.

Policies:

- **EMAIL COMMUNICATION and D2L** will be used frequently throughout the semester. Both of these constitute legal, official University communication. You should make a habit of *accessing both D2L and your campus email at least once each weekday*, so that you receive timely notification of any last-minute changes or for fast assistance regarding assignments. Not checking your email is not an excuse for performance problems in the class. Contact Academic Computing or any Campus Computer Lab supervisor for assistance with email and D2L.
- **Phones/laptops:** Texting during class is prohibited. Any phone that rings during class will be answered by ME. Therefore, phones should be silenced and stowed upon entering the classroom. Laptops are permitted at this time, but if even one person uses a laptop for a purpose other than directly related to class, laptops for ALL students will be banned for the rest of the term.
- If you have a question about our class, chances are that others have the same question. **USE THE D2L DISCUSSION BOARDS!** I have set them up for anonymous posting.
- There are **no extra credit assignments** in this course.
- **Exam dates are firm.** I never give exams early for any reason. Late exams will be permitted on a case-by-case basis; complete documentation of a legitimate excuse (University-sponsored activity, illness, bereavement) will be required. Unless otherwise indicated, the following are PROHIBITED from exams: books, notes, talking, electronics, hats.
- **Late assignments** will be permitted on a case-by-case basis; complete documentation of a legitimate excuse (University-sponsored activity, illness, bereavement) will be required.
 - I reserve the right to record an “Incomplete” grade in order to give myself time to grade any late assignments that I choose to accept. The Undergraduate Bulletin states the University’s policy on **Incomplete grades**. An “I” grade for this course means that you have until the end of the next time this course is offered (Sp10) to make up the missing work. Once that missing work is made up, I must manually change the “I” to the grade you have earned. If the missing work is not made up by the deadline, the “I” grade automatically reverts to “F”.
- The [University’s statement on academic honesty/misconduct](#) says that “Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.” Here are the consequences: If you cheat or plagiarize in one of my courses, at a bare minimum you have earned a zero on the assignment, and I may elect to fail you from the class and report you to the authorities.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Because this is a discussion-based class, it is impossible to dictate exactly what will be done on every day; hence all the “white space” in the schedule below. Exam dates ARE firm and will not change.
- Recitation due dates will be announced in class AND posted on D2L, not here on the syllabus.
- The first trimester (more or less) of the term will be about educational and experiential paths to various healthcare careers.
- The second trimester will teach critical thinking skills about healthcare and rehearse them.
- The third trimester will cover some major ethical issues in healthcare today.

Class Date:

Random

Each student will be selected for Oral Recitation to class

Sept 6

NO CLASS, PARTIAL WEEK

Sept 13

Welcome, syllabus, goals, getting started.

Sep 20

Sept 27

Oct 4

Oct 11

Exam #1 (1 hr).

Oct 18

Oct 25

Nov 1

Nov 8

Nov 15

Exam #2 (1 hr)

Nov 22

YES, THERE IS CLASS! T-GIVING BREAK STARTS ON WEDS, NOT TUES!

Nov 29

Dec 6

Dec 13

Exam #3 (2 hr)

Final course grades posted on TitanWeb on WEDS DEC 21 by 5pm.

EXAMS & GRADING

Exam questions will be of various formats. Some may be Recitation Questions or derived from points made during class discussion. Others may be from assigned reading. Exams may include take-home portions distributed a week ahead. The first two exams will take place during the first hour of our 2-hour session, followed by resumption of regular class activities. The final exam will be given the last day of the class; there will be a brief period for last-minute Q&A (no more than 30 minutes) followed by the exam and you'll have the rest of the period to work on it.

Grades on assignments will be converted to percentages and then weighted as follows for computing your final grade in the course:

Recitations/Attendance/Participation	40%
5-year Plan	5%
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	15%
Personal Essay	10%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%*

*ATTENDANCE PENALTY: There will be a 7% penalty from credit earned for every unexcused absence from class. This is *in addition to* any credit lost from a late or missing assignment.

Letter Grade	%	Grade Points per Unit (cr.)
A	92.0-100	4.00
A-	90.0-91.9	3.67
B+	88.0-89.9	3.33
B	82.0-87.9	3.00
B-	80.0-81.9	2.67
C+	78.0-79.9	2.33
C	72.0-77.9	2.00
C-	70.0-71.9	1.67
D+	68.0-69.9	1.33
D	62.0-67.9	1.00
D-	60.0-61.9	0.67
F (Failure)	<60.0	0.00