PLNU *forward*

MSM 6004 Medicine and Society I
Fall 2025

Meeting days: Thursdays	**Instructor title and name:** Laurel Miller
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PLNU Mission
To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Medicine and Society is a sequence of four integrated and consecutive courses designed to examine the intersection of the individual and the larger community relating to healthcare. This course covers professional conduct, social media, academic integrity, intellectual honesty, evidence based medicine, interprofessional collaboration, and medical research. Students will also participate in community learning groups.

COURSE GOALS

The goal of this course is to provide a foundational framework essential for the student to understand the components of applying knowledge from medical research to improve the health and care of individuals and populations. Students will develop an appreciation for the significance of research in medical decision-making. Students will also practice team-building skills, utilize peer interactions, and learn the roles and responsibilities needed for a PA to develop as a medical professional.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The content in this course will contribute to the student's proficiency in this/these area(s):

1. Gather a history and perform a physical examination. [MK, IC, PC, PR]

2. Prioritize a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter. [MK, PC, PB, PR, SB]

3. Recommend and interpret common diagnostic and screening tests. [MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB]

4. Enter and discuss orders and prescriptions. [MK, IC, PC, PR, PB, SB]

5. Document a clinical encounter in the patient record. [MK, IC, PC, PR]

6. Provide an oral presentation of a clinical encounter. [MK, IC, PC, PB, PR]

7. Form clinical questions and retrieve evidence to advance patient care. [MK, PR, PBL, SB]

8. Give or receive a patient handover to transition care responsibility. [MK, PC, PR, IC, PB]

9. Collaborate as a member of an inter-professional team. [IC,PC,PR,SB]

13. Identify health systems success/failures and how these contribute to the culture of safety and improvement. [MK,IC,PC,SB]

Initials indicate PA core competency required to meet the PLO/CLO.

PA Core Competencies:

MK = Medical Knowledge	IC = Interpersonal Skills & Communication	PC = Patient Care
PR = Professionalism	PB = Practice-based Learning	SB = Systems-based Practice

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Successful completion of this course requires demonstration of the skills and knowledge outlined here at, minimally, the ADVANCED BEGINNER level.

1. Recognize how professional behavior and conduct impacts the PA profession and the healthcare team. [IC, PR, SB]

2. Identify and utilize reliable sources for research and evidence based medicine to provide quality healthcare to patients and populations. [PC, PB]

3. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate medical literature. [PB]

4. Mobilize a patient-centered team, present information, exchange information/ideas, and work productively in a group. [IC, PC, PR, SB]

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the **Medical Research** section of the course the student will be able to search, interpret and evaluate medical literature including how to: [B2.13]

1. Explain the value and importance of evidence-based practice as it relates to solving relevant problems in clinical medicine. [B2.13a]

2. Employ a systematic approach (e.g., five step approach) to create and answer a relevant clinical question using a pre-defined question format (e.g., PICO= Patients, Intervention, Comparison, Outcomes). [Application B2.13a]

3. Estimate the accuracy of diagnostic tests using specificity, sensitivity, likelihood ratio, and prediction values. [Application B2.13b]

4. Discuss the limits of medical research. [Comprehension B2.13c]

5. Identify the types of sampling methods used in medical research. [Knowledge B2.13d]

6. Utilize common databases and online critical appraisal libraries to access medical literature (e.g., Boolean search, Medical Subject Headings) to answer a relevant clinical question. [Application B2.13e]

7. Conduct a literature search of selected topics and analyze literature to a research problem. [Application B2.13e]

8. Use standard criteria or developed scales (e.g., Oxford Centre for Evidence Based Medicine Scale) to critically appraise the structure, rigor, and overall quality of research evidence and determine the efficacy of a clinical intervention. [Application B2.13b,e]

Upon completion of the **Evidence-Based Medicine** section of the course the student will be able to: [B2.05]
1. Apply evidence-based medicine principles and how it relates to current practice. [Application B2.05]
2. Using the principles of EBM, apply the findings of a research article to a patient case discussion. [Analysis B2.05]

Upon completion of the **Intellectual honesty, academic integrity, and professional conduct** section of the course the student will be able to: [B2.19]
1. Discuss intellectual honesty, appropriate academic integrity and appropriate professional conduct. [Comprehension B2.19 a-c]
2. Discuss intellectual honesty and its role in providing appropriate medical care. [Comprehension B2.19a]
3. Analyze their personal values as related to health care and patient populations. [Analysis B2.19c]
4. Evaluate personal professionalism utilizing a professionalism rubric. [Analysis B2.19c]

Upon completion of the **Interprofessional** section of the course the student will be able to: [B2.10]
1. Explain the roles and responsibilities of various healthcare professionals. [Comprehension B2.10a]
2. Demonstrate interpersonal and group dynamics communication skills utilizing a problem-based learning strategy incorporating other professions. [Application B2.10a, B2.04]
3. Demonstrate the unique perspectives and contributions of each healthcare profession. [Application B2.10b]
4. Use group communication tools, IPASS, and team skills. [Application B2.10c, B2.04]

Throughout the course in **Learning communities**, students will be able to:
1. Identify clinical reasoning and problem-solving skills in real-world scenarios. [Knowledge B4.03b]
2. Recognize effective communication on a personal and professional level. [Knowledge B4.03c]
3. Review professional behavior in various settings and develop teamwork skills. [Knowledge B4.03e]
4. Identify essential and accurate information about patients in mock cases. [Knowledge B2.07a, PA Comp]
5. Discuss ethical issues in a thoughtful, unbiased manner. [Comprehension B2.18, PA Comp]
6. Participate in peer and self-evaluations related to professionalism. [B2.19c, B4.03e]
7. Discuss lifestyle medicine and its unique role in healthcare practice. [Knowledge B2.12b, B2.08b]
8. Design an outline of key considerations for providing medical care to patients with disabilities or special health care needs, including common conditions, and strategies for improving accessibility and communication. [Synthesis B2.04, B2.06a]

Note: Superscipts identify the Bloom's Taxonomy level for each objective.

UNIT INSTRUCTION BY WEEK

UNIT	WEEKS	LECTURES
UNIT I	1-8	**Medical Research**
UNIT I PAPER	9	
UNIT II	10-15	**Intellectual honesty, academic integrity, and professional conduct**
		Interprofessional Orientation **Evidence Based Medicine and its Application**
	16	Communication and Team Skills

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Note: All texts annotated with double asterisks are provided in Access Medicine.

Physician Assistant: A Guide to Clinical Practice: Edition 7
Ruth Ballweg, Darwin Brown, Daniel Vetrosky, Tamara S. Ritsema.
Elsevier Health Sciences
ISBN: 9780323654166

**Medical Management of Vulnerable and Underserved Patients: Principles, Practice, and Populations: Edition 2
Talmadge E. King, Margaret B. Wheeler. McGraw-Hill Education
ISBN-13: 978-0071834445
ISBN-10: 9780071834445

** Understanding Clinical Research
Renato D. Lopes, *Editor*, Robert A. Harrington, *Editor*
ISBN-13: 978-0071746786
ISBN-10: 0071746781

** Understanding Teamwork in Health Care
Gordon Mosser, James W. Begun
ISBN-13: 978-0071791953
ISBN-10: 0071791957

** Understanding Medical Professionalism
Wendy Levinson, MD, Shiphra Ginsburg, MD, Med, Frederic W. Hafferty, PhD, Catherine R. Lucey, MD
ISBN-13: 978-0071807432
ISBN-10: 0071807438

LEARNING MODALITIES

Modalities include lectures, reading assignments, and community learning activities. The class schedule and assignments can be found in Canvas.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. However, we recognize that as adults you have other life responsibilities and challenges that may interfere. Ultimately you are responsible for your education and your ability to demonstrate mastery of the course and program objectives.

1.   You MUST attend:
    ● PE and clinical skills labs appropriately dressed and with all necessary equipment
    ● examinations on the date and time for which they are schedule
    ● learning community group

2.   We expect
    ● active participation in all class activities.
    ● completion of all class preparatory assignments prior to commencement of class.
    ● respect for the class, peers and faculty.
    ● on-time arrival for all classes, laboratories, learning groups or any scheduled activities. Routine tardiness demonstrates a lack of professionalism and will not be tolerated

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. No partial credit will be given for late assignments. Incompletes will only be assigned under extremely unusual circumstances. Late assignments receiving no credit must still be submitted. Students failing an examination or practicum must complete the designated remediation (See REMEDIATION below) within the assigned time.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examinations (written and practical) **on their respective scheduled days**. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Student course grades are calculated using all assessment tools utilized during the course. These include quizzes, written examinations, written assignments, practicums, and evaluation of skills.

Learning Community groups will be utilized to provide case-based instruction. A clinical case will be presented to each group by the group mentor. Students are expected to utilize knowledge acquired from prior readings and lectures, as well as self/group directed learning to work up the case, develop a working diagnosis, a differential diagnosis and a therapeutic regimen which will include a follow-up plan and patient education. Effective interpersonal communication, clinical reasoning and problem-solving abilities, professional behavior and teamwork are paramount to success and development as clinicians. Cases will be issued no more frequently than every other week. Students will receive a collective grade for this exercise.

Learning community group performance expectations include; demonstrating effective interpersonal communication, clinical reasoning and problem-solving abilities, professional behavior and teamwork skills. Application, B4.03b, B4.03c, B4.03e

ACTIVITY	% OF GRADE
Learning Community	20%
Assignments, Quizzes, Discussions	80%

Grading will be in keeping with Point Loma Nazarene University policy for graduate programs and grading will be as follows:

A=93-100	C=73-76
A-=92-90	C-=70-72
B+=87-89	D+=67-69
B=83-86	D=63-66
B-=80-82	D-=60-62
C+=77-79	F=0-59

REMEDIATION

Remediation is the process by which both the student and the program are assured that performance indicating a deficiency in knowledge or skills is subsequently demonstrated to be satisfactory. This may include a re-test over missed material, a skills demonstration or a review of missed material with the completion of corrected answers. It is important to note that this is content remediation, not grade remediation and no grade will be changed based on these activities.

Within 48 hours of the posting of a grade of <70%, the student MUST contact the course director to discuss the student's performance and create a remediation plan. Unless otherwise directed by the course director, remediation activities must be completed within 5 days.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the

course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Graduate Academic and General Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, Grammarly, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. Please use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI.

[MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](#)

[APA Style: How To Cite ChatGPT](#)

[Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](#)

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

Mission Valley and Balboa Campuses:
PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end we provide resources for our Graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. We have an onsite chaplain, Rev. Gordon Wong, at the Mission Valley (MV) campus to service Graduate students at the Mission Valley and Balboa Campuses. Rev. Gordon Wong is available during class break times across the week. If you

have questions for, desire to meet or share a prayer request with Rev. Wong you can contact him directly at mvchaplain@pointloma.edu or gordonwong@pointloma.edu. Rev. Wong's cell number is 808-429-1129 if you need a more immediate response.

ARC-PA standards (5th edition) addressed in this course: B2.19, B2.05, B2.10, B2.13, B2.18, B4.03c,d,e

This syllabus is subject to change. Students are encouraged to check course messages and emails in order to remain current.