



Physician Assistant Education Department

Master of Science in Medicine

2 units

**MSM 6006 MEDICINE AND SOCIETY II**

---

<b>Meeting days:</b> Thursday	<b>Instructor title and name:</b> Laurel Miller
<b>Meeting times:</b> 11-12pm	<b>Phone:</b> 619.849.7950
<b>Meeting location:</b> Room 154	<b>E-mail:</b> lmiller1@pointloma.edu
<b>Final Exam:</b> N/A	<b>Office location and hours:</b>
<b>Additional info:</b>	<b>Additional info:</b>

---

**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 the history of the PA profession, PA trends and organizations, social and behavioral sciences, cultural awareness and diverse socioeconomic populations, and provider personal wellness. 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 different aspects of the PA profession as well as social and behavioral science. Students will discuss culturally diverse populations. 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)

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

---

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

1. Describe the past, present and future of the PA profession, as well as relevant laws and regulations, and the significance of personal and professional development. (PR1, PR4, PR5, SB4)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the complexity of violence and abuse, the effect it has on victims and the community, and identify the PA role regarding patient safety. (MK4, MK8, IC3, PR1, PR3, PR6, PR7, PR9)
3. Provide strategies for identifying and managing stress. (MK3, MK4, MK7, IC2, IC5, PC3, PC5, PC6)
4. Describe cultural awareness, various issues related to diverse populations, and the need for cultural sensitivity. (MK3, IC3, PC2, PR3, PR7, PB5, SB8)

*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

## INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

---

Upon completion of the **History of the PA Profession, Trends and Organizations** section of the course the student will be able to: <sup>B2.17</sup>

1. Explain the credentialing process of a PA. <sup>Knowledge B2.17a</sup>
2. Investigate the historical development of the PA Profession. <sup>Knowledge B2.17b</sup>
3. Review and discuss the [Physician Assistant Code of Conduct](#). <sup>Comprehension B2.17c</sup>
4. Review and discuss the [Physician Assistant Scope of Practice](#). <sup>Comprehension B2.17c</sup>
5. Explain the process of becoming a [Certified Physician Assistant](#) and taking the PANCE ([Policies and procedures](#)). <sup>Comprehension B2.17d</sup>
6. Explain the process of maintaining [Physician Assistant Certification](#) and taking the PANRE ([Policies and procedures](#)). <sup>Comprehension B2.17d</sup>
7. Review and explain requirements for initial [Physician Assistant licensure and license renewal](#). <sup>Comprehension B2.17d</sup>

8. Discuss Continuing Medical Education (CME), Categories 1 and 2, and its role in maintaining licensure and certification. Comprehension B2.17d
9. Describe qualities of an effective Physician-PA team relationship. Comprehension B2.17e
10. Explain how the Physician-PA team provides efficient, quality, patient centered healthcare. Comprehension B2.17e
11. Discuss political issues for the practicing PA; including barriers to optimal team practice (OTP), limitations, restrictions, reimbursement and prescribing. Comprehension B2.17f
12. Discuss current trends, professional issues, and organizations within the PA profession. Comprehension B2.17g
13. Discuss the purpose and role of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Comprehension B2.17g
14. Discuss the purpose and role of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). Comprehension B2.17g

Upon completion of the **Social and Behavioral Sciences** section of the course the student will be able to:

B2.11

1. Investigate the concepts and complexities surrounding death, dying and loss. Comprehension B2.11a
2. Discuss human sexuality and the relationship with clinical practice. Comprehension 2.11b
3. Review the issues of domestic violence, abuse, sex trafficking, and sexual assault. Comprehension B2.11b
4. Outline normal and abnormal development across the life span. Comprehension 2.11c
5. Give examples of the common patient responses to injury and illness. Comprehension 2.11d
6. Give examples of the common patient responses to stress. Comprehension 2.11e
7. Identify and discuss substance use disorders with patients. Comprehension B2.11f
8. Recognize the importance of violence prevention, signs and symptoms of violence, and the reporting responsibility of healthcare providers when they assess injuries that could be associated with violence. Comprehension 2.11g

Upon completion of the **Cultural Awareness and Diverse Socioeconomic Populations** section of the course the student will be able to: B2.06

1. Relate how health beliefs, values and socio-economic disparities affect healthcare. B2.06a-f Knowledge
2. Summarize ways cultural sensitivity impacts medical care when caring for: Comprehension
  - a. patients with disabilities and those requiring special health care needs. B2.06a
  - b. different races including Hispanic, African American, Asian, American Indian, Middle Eastern. B2.06b
  - c. a patient's gender identity, gender expression, and biological sex. B2.06c
  - d. patients with different religions including Muslim, Jewish, Jehovah Witness, Christian, and Scientology. B2.06d
  - e. a patient's sexual and romantic orientation. B2.06e
  - f. issues arising from social determinants of health. B2.06f

Upon completion of the **Provider Personal Wellness** section of the course the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the prevention of physical and mental impairment to providing care. Comprehension B2.20a
2. Evaluate the types of responses to stress students have experienced personally. Evaluation B2.20a
3. Discuss the prevention of burnout. Comprehension B2.20b
4. Explore ways students can plan for future stressful experiences. Application B2.20b

Throughout the course in **Learning communities**, students will be able to:

1. Use clinical reasoning and problem-solving skills in real-world scenarios. Application B4.03b
2. Demonstrate effective communication on a personal and professional level. Application B4.03c
3. Demonstrate professional behavior in various settings and develop teamwork skills. Application B4.03e
4. Examine essential and accurate information about patients in mock cases. Application B2.07a, PA Comp
5. Explore ethical issues in a thoughtful, unbiased manner. Application B2.18, PA Comp
6. Participate in peer and self-evaluations related to professionalism. B4.03e

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

#### UNIT INSTRUCTION BY WEEK

UNIT	WEEKS	LECTURES
UNIT I	1-6	ORIENTATION <b>History of the PA Profession, Trends and Organizations</b>
UNIT II	7-13	<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences: Domestic Violence, Abuse, Human Sexuality, and Sexual Assault</b> <b>Personal response to injury, stress, and illness</b>
UNIT III	14-16	<b>Cultural Awareness, Diverse Socioeconomic Populations</b>

#### REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

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

\*\*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

Physician Assistant: A Guide to Clinical Practice: Edition 6

Ruth Ballweg, Darwin Brown, Daniel Vetrosky, Tamara S. Ritsema.  
 Elsevier Health Sciences  
 ISBN: 9780323401128

#### 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. 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, B2.05, B4.03b, B4.03c, B4.03e

ACTIVITY	% OF GRADE
Learning community Group	20%
Assignments/Quizzes	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

## REMEDICATION

---

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 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. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

---

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. ([DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

#### **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](mailto:mvchaplain@pointloma.edu) or [gordonwong@pointloma.edu](mailto: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: B2.06, B2.17, B2.11, B2.20**

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

