Geriatric & Age Related Diseases
GMS 6484
Course Syllabus

Instructor Information:
Laurence M. Solberg, MD, AGSF
Associate Professor, UF College of Medicine
Chief, Divisions of Geriatric Medicine & Career Development and Education
Department of Aging & Geriatric Research
Email: lmsolberg@ufl.edu
Phone: 352-265-7227

Course website:
The course will be delivered entirely via the UF Sakai system at http://lss.at.ufl.edu. Weekly homework assignments will be distributed via Sakai, and should be submitted by the student as to the class Sakai site. Participation will take place through discussion groups held online.

Course Communications:
The online discussion board can be used to comment on the readings and assignments, ask thoughtful questions, and explore related concepts. You may also use the online discussion board to ask specific questions about course content.

However, questions your individual performance in the class should be sent via email to the Course Instructor via email at lmsolberg@ufl.edu. All emails will be returned as soon as possible, but please allow 24 hours for a response.

Technical Assistance:
Please contact Dr. Christy Carter (cartercs@ufl.edu) between 8 AM and 5 PM ET for assistance with the course web site. For a list of additional student support services links and information please visit: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services.

Required and Recommended Textbooks:
Students will not be required to purchase a textbook for this course. All readings will be accessible via the Internet, posted on the course web site, and/or available through the UF library.

Prerequisite:
Students must be registered students in good standing at the University of Florida. The course is open to individuals from all disciplines.

Purpose of Course:
This course provides an overview of the practice of providing care to geriatric populations. This includes an understanding of common syndromes, conditions and diseases that are relevant to the quality of life in older adults.

Course Objectives:
At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and differentiate between the syndromes, conditions, and diseases common in older populations; and
2. Identify the medical, social, and environmental factors that contribute to many of these syndromes, conditions, and diseases.

**Course Requirements/Evaluation/Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Module/Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction; The Geriatric Patient</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Role of a Geriatrician and Other Care Team Members</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Depression</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Delirium</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dementia and Cognitive Impairment (Part 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dementia and Cognitive Impairment (Part 2)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Falls and Falls Prevention</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Urinary Incontinence</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Constipation</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Weight Loss and Malnutrition</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Osteoporosis</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Polypharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Understanding Medicare Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Preventative Care for Older Adults and the Annual Medicare Wellness Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Understanding Acute and Post-Acute Care Facilities of Older Adults</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Weekly discussion board response and replies:
At the beginning of each week, a question that is relevant to the weekly topic will be posted. All students will be required to post a response to the question. Each student will also be required to post a reply to 2 other students’ responses. All initial responses must be thoughtful and include enough detail to indicate that they have carefully considered the question. Each reply
must also be thoughtful and show careful analysis of the initial response to which the reply is being made. No minimum or maximum word limit has been set for the responses or replies.

Up to 5 points will be awarded for each response (5 points for a comprehensive, in-depth response, 3 points for a moderately in-depth response, and 1 point for a response that includes very little depth and discussion), and up to 5 points will be awarded for each reply to a response (5 points for a comprehensive, in-depth response, 3 points for a moderately in-depth response, and 1 point for a response that includes very little depth and discussion). All responses and replies must be posted no later than Sunday at 11:59 PM ET each week.

Weekly assignments:
Each week, students will be expected to submit a project or assignment related to that week’s course topic. Point values for each week’s assignment will vary but will be stated with each assignment.

Grades in this class are earned on the basis of points and then converted to letter grades (as shown in this chart). Letter-grade GPA equivalents are shown in the second table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage or points earned in class</th>
<th>93%-100%</th>
<th>90%-92%</th>
<th>87%-89%</th>
<th>83%-86%</th>
<th>80%-82%</th>
<th>77%-79%</th>
<th>73%-75%</th>
<th>70%-72%</th>
<th>67%-69%</th>
<th>63%-66%</th>
<th>60%-62%</th>
<th>Below 60%</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>WF</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>NG</th>
<th>S-U</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade equivalent</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>WF</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>NG</td>
<td>S-U</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar’s Grade Policy regulations at [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

Assignments will include readings from relevant journal articles, web sites, and other sources that will be freely accessible to all registered UF students.

**Make-Up Policy:**
All assignments/projects must be submitted via the deadline provided on the course web site. Late work will not be accepted without prior approval from the Course Instructor. In the event of an emergency where prior approval could not be sought, contact the Course Instructor as soon as possible.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)

**Copyright Information**
Please review the University policy regarding the use of copyrighted materials, which can be found on the Health Science Center Library’s web page: [http://www.library.health.ufl.edu/services/copyright.htm](http://www.library.health.ufl.edu/services/copyright.htm)
University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:
Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Course Instructor when requesting accommodation. The student must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the Dean of Students Office as soon as possible in the term in which they are seeking accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct:
Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students/php.

Students are expected to abide by the University’s Academic Honesty Policy, and to adhere to the following pledge:

“We, the member of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“Oh my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

According to the UF Student Guide, Academic dishonesty includes the following:

Cheating - copying another’s work for academic gain.

Plagiarism - representing another’s work as your own.

Bribery - offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving goods or services of value for academic gain.

Misrepresentation - altering facts (e.g., signing an absent classmate’s name to an attendance sheet).

Conspiracy - planning with others to commit academic dishonesty.

Fabrication - making up information to avoid punishment or other difficulty.

Counseling and Student Health:
Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the University of Florida Counseling Center, 352-392-1575, or Student
Mental Health Services, 352-392-1171. Visit their web sites for more information: [http://www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu) or [http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent](http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent)

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

**Evaluations.**
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu).