Summer 2019
Survey of Medical Physics
GMS 5905; Section 77FE; 1 credit

CLASS MEETING INFO
Thursdays 1:40 PM – 2:45 PM (some lectures on Wednesday)
Location: Communicore CG-49

INSTRUCTORS
Stephanie Leon, Ph.D.; leons@radiology.ufl.edu
BC Schwarz, Ph.D.; schwbc@radiology.ufl.edu
Guest Lectures: Lynn Rill, Ph.D.; Manuel Arreola, Ph.D.
Office Hours: Arrange via email

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
None

DESCRIPTION
(1 credit) This course is intended to prepare students for their future graduate studies and future medical physics career by informing students about career choices, work environments, residencies, board certification, and ethics and professionalism.

PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES
None

OBJECTIVES
1. Students will learn about the different subspecialties of medical physics/health physics and their required qualifications, anticipated salaries, and anticipated future demand
2. Students will learn about available work environments for medical physicists and the benefits/drawbacks of each of these environments
3. Students will learn about the rules and regulations governing medical physics including medical events and errors, root cause analysis, quality, and safety
4. Students will learn about the MP-RAP
5. Students will learn about the board certification process for medical physicists and the regulating bodies for board certification
6. Students will learn about ethics and professionalism in medical physics including HIPAA privacy laws
7. Students will plan their anticipated career path in graduate school and medical physics
8. Students will create a CV to which they can add future information and accomplishments
9. Students will participate in a mock residency interview to help prepare themselves for future residency interviews
10. Students will participate in ethics and professionalism discussions
11. Students will interview current medical physicists in different work environments and present on their interviews

MATERIALS AND SUPPLY FEES
AAPM Student Member Fee ($25 application fee); https://www.aapm.org/memb/prospect/Student_Application.asp

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & SOFTWARE
Registration for one medical physics listserv required (MEDPHYS for therapy; DXIMGMEDPHYS for diagnostic/nuc med)

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS
None

The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution
COURSE SCHEDULE (W = Wednesday, Th = Thursday)

5/16/19 (Th): Class introduction, review of syllabus, overview of medical physics subspecialties (SL, BCS)
Assignments: Register for at least one listserv; sign up as AAPM student member

5/23/19 (Th): Working environments in medical physics; international medical physics (SL, BCS, MA)
Assignments: Students rank interviews from most interested (1) to least interested (12)

5/30/19 (Th): QMPs, rules, regulations, professional societies; medical events, errors, RCA, quality/safety (SL)
Assignments: None

6/5/19 (W): Medical physics residencies and MP-RAP; CV and personal statement tips (LR, BCS)
Assignments: CV preparation

6/13/19 (Th): ABR, ABSNM, ABMP, CHP; qualifications, process, and preparation for board certification (BCS)
Assignments: Plan your career path

6/20/19 (Th): Mock residency interviews
Assignments: None

7/3/19 (W): AAPM TG-159: Ethics and professionalism in medical physics and HIPAA (BCS)
Assignments: Reading in preparation for ethics assignment

7/11/19 (Th): Discussion of ethical dilemmas (SL, BCS)
Assignments: Summary of ethics discussion

7/18/19 (Th): Round-table discussion of ethics/professionalism situations; role of professional societies and involvement (BCS)
Assignments: None

7/25/19 (Th): Student presentations and discussion of interview assignment (SL, BCS)
Assignments: None

8/1/19 (Th): Student presentations and discussion of interview assignment (SL, BCS)
Assignments: None

8/8/19 (Th): Student presentations and discussion of interview assignment (SL, BCS)
Assignments: None

ATTENDANCE POLICY; CLASS EXPECTATIONS; MAKE-UP POLICY
Attendance is required during this course as it is a highly interactive course with much of the course grade dependent on group work and participation in class. Any class periods that may be missed should be brought to the attention of the instructors as far in advance as possible.

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation:
http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance

EVALUATION OF GRADES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview a medical physicist</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan your career path</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV preparation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock residency interview</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics and professionalism group work</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: 100%</strong></td>
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1. **Interview a medical physicist**
Each student will interview a working medical physicist in a different subspecialty and/or practice environment (e.g. therapy, diagnostic, nuclear medicine, and medical health physics; in-house physics in clinics or hospitals, academics, consulting, industry, or military/VA). Instructors will provide a list of interviewees for the semesters with short bios
on the individuals. The students will rank the top 3 interviewees they are most interested in speaking with. An attempt will be made to assign an interview that the student ranked highly, although not all students will get their first choice. The last three class periods of the course will be devoted to presentations about the interviews by the students with class discussion to follow.

**DUE DATE:** July 25, August 1, or August 8

2. **Plan your career path**

Each student will create a plan for their graduate studies and future medical physics career. This career path will include the following:

- Desired degree (MS, PhD)
- Anticipated qualifying exam date (desired PhD students only)
- Anticipated date for ABR Part 1, including application deadline
- Anticipated graduation date for desired degree
- Anticipated year for entrance into MP-RAP, including projected application deadline
- Anticipated residency interviews timeline
- Deadlines for MS project and PhD dissertation defense in the planned graduation semester
- Anticipated residency start date
- Anticipated date for ABR Part 2, including application deadline
- When should a resident start looking for jobs?
- Anticipated date for ABR Part 3, including application deadline

In addition to this, each student will identify a contingency plan that works for them if a residency is not obtained on first entrance into MP-RAP.

**DUE DATE:** July 3

3. **CV preparation and mock residency interview**

Each student will write a CV and submit it one week before his or her mock interview. Each student will complete a mock residency interview with two faculty members TBD. The faculty evaluations and quality of the CV will be used to determine the student’s grade.

**DUE DATE:** CV due on June 13; mock residency interviews occur on June 20

4. **Ethics and professionalism group work**

The class will be divided into groups of 2-3 individuals (in class). Each group will be given a paper with a situation related to ethics or professionalism. The group will have 10 minutes to discuss and write brief recommendations. The groups will be shuffled and the exercised repeated two more times. Each student will be asked to write a summary of their discussions and decisions about the situations for homework individually. At the next class, students will participate in a discussion session about their situations.

**DUE DATE:** Summary of ethics discussion due on July 18

5. **Participation**

Participation includes three major components: Active participation in class discussions, active reading of at least one medical physics listserv (to be discussed in first few minutes of each class), and becoming an AAPM member (if not already a member)

**GRADING POLICY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Score Range</td>
<td>Grade</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 &amp; below</td>
<td>E</td>
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More information on UF grading policy may be found at: [http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades](http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades)

**STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS**
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565; [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**EVALUATIONS**
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals). 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/results/](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/).

**UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICY**
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code ([https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**SOFTWARE USE**
All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

**STUDENT PRIVACY**
There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: [http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html](http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html)

**CAMPUS RESOURCES**

**Health and Wellness**

**U Matter, We Care**
Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

**Counseling and Wellness Center**
352-392-1575; [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc)
Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
352-392-1161; Student Health Care Center

University Police Department
352-392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies); http://www.police.ufl.edu/

Academic Resources

E-learning Technical Support
352-392-4357 (select option 2); learning-support@ufl.edu; https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

Career Resource Center
Career assistance and counseling.
352-392-1601; Reitz Union; https://www.crc.ufl.edu/

Library Support
Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask

Teaching Center
General study skills and tutoring.
352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420; Broward Hall; https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio
Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
352-846-1138; 302 Tigert Hall; https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints Campus

On-Line Students Complaints
http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process