

# HSC 2000 Introduction to Health Professions (3 Credits)

**Class Number:** 13218

**Semester:** Fall 2025

**Delivery Format:** On-Campus (in-person)

**Class Time:** Tuesdays from 9:35 – 11:30 AM

**Course Website:** [lss.at.ufl.edu](https://lss.at.ufl.edu) (Canvas)

**Classroom:** HPNP G201

**Instructor:** Lara Zwilling, LMHC, CFMHE

**Office:** HPNP 4159

**Phone:** 352.273.7424

**Email:** [laralyn@phttp.ufl.edu](mailto:laralyn@phttp.ufl.edu) or via Canvas Message

**Preferred Communication:** Canvas Message (Course mail)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 8:30 – 9:30 AM (or by appointment)

## PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

### Course Overview

This course provides an overview of the U.S. healthcare system and the health workforce. Specifically, this course will examine issues affecting healthcare delivery including social determinants of health, healthcare reform, and healthcare insurance. This course will also explore the roles and educational requirements of physicians, dentists, nurses, occupational therapists, and other allied health professionals. The course emphasis is to establish a solid foundation of professional characteristics, behaviors, values, skills, and knowledge for students to build upon in their healthcare careers.

### Course Objectives and Competencies

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of various healthcare professionals within the current healthcare delivery system
- Describe the US healthcare system and the insurance industry's role in financing healthcare
- Describe the relationship between public health and healthcare
- Identify various health inequities and health disparities found within the US
- Identify personal traits and attitudes desirable in healthcare team members
- List prerequisite coursework and other requirements needed to fulfill the requirements for various graduate/professional programs in the health professions

### Instructional Methods

The course is housed in Canvas, a UF e-Learning platform. This course uses face-to-face instruction to maximize learning. All course material is delivered using a combination of video recording, including guest lectures and invited health professional presentations, as well as assigned readings, videos, and class discussion. Regular class attendance, presence, and engagement are absolutely critical to be successful in this course and it is also what makes this class useful for you. While course readings and class presentations are posted on Canvas, understanding the material requires active participation in class and group discussions, and detailed note taking.

This class meets twice per week, and you are expected to attend and actively engage in the course throughout the term. You must come to class prepared by completing all out-of-class requirements prior to class. This preparation gives you the knowledge needed to engage in higher levels of learning during the in-class sessions. You are expected to actively participate in the session, which fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives.

## COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

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## Course Material

Each week, students will be assigned various articles, recorded lectures, webpages, videos, etc. that they must read/watch prior to class. All course material will be made available on the Canvas website at least 1 week prior to class. Within class, we will use recorded/live presentations from various health professionals, class discussion, small group work, and activities to promote further understanding of class topics.

## Technology

Required Equipment: Computer with high-speed internet access and use of a supported browser (Google Chrome recommended). Additionally, all students will be required to have a webcam and microphone to participate during the Zoom class times (if we cannot meet face to face). To access this course on Canvas, you will use your Gatorlink ID and password to login to the course.

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk by:

- Calling (352) 392-HELP (option 2),
- Emailing [learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:learning-support@ufl.edu), or
- Going to [lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml)

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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### Quizzes (50% of final grade)

Each week, students will complete a 10 question, multiple choice quiz to assess their understanding and retention of the material. Quizzes will be open for 15 minutes during class time, and students complete the quiz on Canvas (or paper-based version if requested). Students must be present in class to take the quiz and are not permitted to use source material, notes, classmates, online resources, or aids of any kind while taking a quiz. This is how your attendance will be counted. A total of 12 quizzes will be administered with the 2 lowest quiz grades being automatically dropped. Only students with excused absences (see Make-Up Policy below) will be allowed to make-up a quiz.

### Professional Development Assignments (50% of final grade)

Throughout the semester, students will complete 3 professional development assignments with the goal of solidifying their professional identity. For Assignment 1, students can explore various organizations related to their chosen profession and research requirements, etc. (15%) For Assignment 2, students will seek out potential graduate programs and identify the prerequisite coursework and additional requirements necessary to be eligible for said programs. (20%) For assignment 3, students will complete a career exploration assignment. (15%) Additional details for each assignment is provided on Canvas.

### Class Discussion

For weeks 2-15, students will participate in a class discussion regarding that week's topic.

### \*Extra Credit Paper

An optional reflection paper will be available for students wishing to earn extra credit. The paper will be a minimum of 1,000 words, 12 pt. Arial font, double-spaced. Because this is a reflection paper, outside resources are not required and therefore citations are not expected. If however you decide to reference material, you must provide an APA citation at the end of your paper. Students will choose 1 of 3 topics to write about (more information can be found on Canvas). A maximum of 3 points can be achieved for completing the extra credit paper.

### Grading

Final grades will be based on the number of points accumulated during the course. **Grades will not be rounded.** Also note, there is no C- grade given for this course.

Quizzes (x10)	50 Points	A	93-100 Points	= 4.00
Professional Development Assignment 1	15 Points	A-	90-92.99 Points	= 3.67
Professional Development Assignment 2	20 Points	B+	87-89.99 Points	= 3.33
Professional Development Assignment 3	15 Points	B	83-86.99 Points	= 3.00

**Total Points**

Extra Credit

**100 Points**

03 Points Max

B-	80-82.99 Points = 2.67
C+	77-79.99 Points = 2.33
C	70-76.99 Points = 2.00
D+	67-69.99 Points = 1.33
D	63-65.99 Points = 1.00
D-	60-62.99 Points = 0.67
E	< 60 Points = 0.00

For greater detail on letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy at: <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **CLASS POLICIES**

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### **Make-Up Work Policy**

Make-ups may be granted based upon the following circumstances: (a) illness, (b) serious family emergencies, (c) military obligation, (d) religious holidays, (e) participation in official university activities, or (f) court-imposed legal obligations. For circumstances a. and b., students must contact the faculty via email within 48 hours of the missed quiz/assignment, and the faculty may request the student provide medical or other forms of documentation to validate the make-up.

For all other circumstances, students must contact the faculty at least 3 days prior to the anticipated missed day and provide reasonable documentation confirming the obligation/activity. Note: circumstances c. through f. only apply to missed quizzes, not assignments. Assignments are published at the beginning of the class and therefore students have ample time to complete assignments around anticipated obligations/activities.

Missed quizzes/assignments due to severe weather or poor internet connectivity will be reviewed on a case by case basis. If you are unable to access consistent internet, please email the instructor ahead of time (if possible); otherwise email the instructor at the earliest time possible.

### **Recording Policy**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### **Late Submission Policy**

Late submissions for Professional Development Assignments will be accepted for up to 48 hours after the original deadline, and graded for a maximum of half credit. Assignments submitted after the 48 hour window will not be accepted (unless excused) and the student will earn a 0.

It is your responsibility to check that the correct assignment has been submitted to Canvas on time. If you submit the wrong assignment, Canvas allows you to resubmit the correct assignment before the deadline. Submitting an assignment even 1 minute after the time it is due will be considered late – please do not wait to complete and submit your assignments.

### **Collaboration Policy**

Unless otherwise stated explicitly by written instructions, the preparation of all coursework should be done individually. If you are unsure about what level of collaboration is appropriate, ask the instructor before beginning any graded assignment.

### **Policy Related to Guests Attending Class**

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This

is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy: <http://facstaff.php.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

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

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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.”***

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code: [www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/).

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

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### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

### **Counseling and Student Health**

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The **Counseling and Wellness Center** 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- **U Matter We Care** website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The **Student Health Care Center** at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789 <http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>
- **University Police Department:** [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.](#)

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

## **ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC RESOURCES**

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- [Career Connections Center:](#) Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support:](#) Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [Teaching Center:](#) Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio:](#) 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)
- On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

## **ONLINE FACULTY COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS**

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Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give professional and respectful feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

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Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination.

The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: [www.multicultural.ufl.edu](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu)

## DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

### Outline/Course Schedule

All assigned articles, webpages, lectures, videos etc. should be read/watched prior to class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and summary of the lesson/class activities from the missed class. This course schedule is subject to revision. Confirm deadlines in class and always check Canvas for updates.

Week	BEFORE CLASS	DURING CLASS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week of August 25 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: WHAT MAKES A GREAT HEALTH PROFESSIONAL?		
	None	Review Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz
Week of Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	TOPIC: US HEALTHCARE SYSTEM 1		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	
Week of Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: US HEALTHCARE SYSTEM 2		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	
Week of Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: INTEGRATING MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	
Week of Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	TOPIC: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	Professional Development Assignment 1 Due
Week of Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: Disease & Disabilities		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	

Week of Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: Vulnerable Populations		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	
Week of Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: Research in Healthcare		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	Professional Development Assignment 2
Week of Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: Healthcare Leadership		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	
Week of Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: Ethical and Legal Issues in Healthcare		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	
Week of Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	TOPIC: Patient Provider Communication		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	Professional Development Assignment 3
Week of Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	TOPIC: Conflict Resolution in Healthcare		
		In-Class Quiz Class Discussion and/or Small Group Work	
Week of Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Culminating Experience		

\*\*\*Schedule is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. Any changes will be announced in class, and the student is personally responsible for obtaining updated information regarding those changes.