CC 306M: Intro to Medical and Scientific Terminology

Spring 2011
Time: MWF 8:00-9:00 (33300)/ Location: UTC 2.112A
Time: MWF 9:00-10:00 (33305)/ Location: UTC 2.112A

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or by appointment

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Course Description

This course provides a systematic introduction to medical and scientific terminology. In this course you will acquire a working knowledge of the Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes which are fundamental to understanding ‘medspeak’, i.e. the specialized language of healthcare. You will learn the principles of word analysis, construction, and pronunciation. Although this course is primarily for those who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine or the allied health sciences, please bear in mind that it is a classical civilization course. Thus, we will often skip discussions of the technical aspects of modern medicine for the sake of introducing you to relevant elements of Greek and Roman medico-scientific culture. Such historical information will not only help you to memorize medical terms but it will also give you a better appreciation of the origins of Western medicine. There are no prerequisites. Although we will be working with Latin and Greek terms, no background knowledge of these languages is required. Because you are learning a new ‘language’, you will need to memorize a large number of words and word components.

Goals of this Course:
1) You will acquire a working vocabulary of the Greek and Latin roots, prefixes and suffixes which are fundamental to understanding medical and scientific terminology.
2) You will learn the principles of word analysis, construction, and pronunciation.
3) You will become acquainted with deciphering medico-scientific terminology in context.

Course Expectations

Please bear in mind that you are responsible for the material covered in class and the material in the textbook. Daily assignments will consist of readings from the required text. The chapter readings are available on the syllabus. Students are expected to consult the syllabus and do the assigned reading before coming to class. As this course is in many respects a ‘language’ course, you will need to study the presented material on a daily basis. In addition to the chapter readings, each student is strongly encouraged to make full use of all exercises, reviews, and study aids that the textbook provides. It is your responsibility to do the exercises and bring your problems to my attention. Unless stated otherwise, you
are responsible for the literal and medial definition of the terms in the tables in your textbook. It is imperative that you learn the component parts of these terms (i.e. root, combining form, prefix, suffix). If over the course of the semester the syllabus needs to be modified or adjusted, an announcement will be sent out via blackboard with an updated assignment schedule.

**Required Text**


*If you chose another edition of this text, it is your responsibility to confirm whether your edition is consistent with the course textbook.

**Recommended Text**


* Although any medical dictionary which includes the etymology for each term will do, Taber’s is highly recommended for this course. The online version of Taber’s contains around 30,000 audio files of the pronunciations of medical terms. [http://www.tabers.com/tabersonline/ub/logout](http://www.tabers.com/tabersonline/ub/logout)

**Useful Resources**


* The Classical World in Medical Terminology is a website created by one of my predecessors. It contains information on the various systems of the body, images, complementary exercises, and audio files to help with pronunciation. What makes this website unique is that it links much of the material covered in your textbook to aspects of Classical literature and culture.


* Whonamedit.com is a biographical dictionary of medical eponyms.


* Online Etymology Dictionary is a useful source of information on word etymologies.


* Large website which allows you to make and review your own flashcards.

**Grading**

There will be 7 scheduled tests which will be administered every other week on Friday. The tests are based on the assigned readings and the material covered in class. Each test will include 50 multiple choice questions.
choice questions. Scores for each test will be posted the next day on Blackboard under View Grades. Your grade for the course is based on your best six test grades. Thus, your lowest test grade will be dropped when calculating your final grade. **There will be no final exam.**

In addition to your lowest test grade being dropped, you can improve your grade by correctly answering the extra credit questions which will be in the form of 7 pop quizzes. You will **not** be allowed to makeup these pop quizzes. **Please note that I do not offer any other type of extra credit work.**

Every question you answer correctly, whether on a test or quiz, is worth one point toward your final grade. Your final grade is determined by the total points earned (i.e. points earned on the 6 best tests + the 7 extra credit pop quizzes). I will not be assigning plus-minus final grades. Therefore, the grading scale is as follows:

- A = 270 pts.
- B = 269-240 pts.
- C = 239-210 pts.
- D = 209-180 pts.
- F = 179 pts. or less

* **Please note that I do not round grades up, and there is no curve for this course.**

It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades. If you perceive that there was an error on a test or quiz or in the grading, you should contact my TA before the next test or pop quiz.

NB: Only the most recent test/quiz will be available for review during the TA's posted office hours or by appointment (i.e. once Test 2 has been administered, Test 1 will no longer be available for review).

**Tentative Test Dates**

Feb. 4, Feb. 18, Mar. 4, Mar. 25, Apr. 8, Apr. 22, May 6

If a test has to be moved you will be given at least a week advanced notice. I will never move the test up. As long as I schedule the test during our regularly scheduled class time, your previous plans don’t count as an excused absence.

**Make-up Policy and Missed Classes**

Absences will only be excused for religious holidays, medical reasons (with a letter from Student Health Services or a private physician), or for family emergencies (only when certified by the Dean of Students: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/)). No make-up tests will be given, except in cases of emergencies or for religious holidays. If you miss a lecture class, please do not ask me what you missed. It is your responsibility to find someone in the class to take notes for you. I do not post my PowerPoint presentations or lecture notes.

If you need to miss a test for the observance of a religious holiday, you must notify me at least 14 days in advance so we can make alternative arrangements.
Computer Access

Students are expected to have access to a computer and to the internet. Class material including the syllabus, test information, grades as well as other information and announcements will be posted on Blackboard (courses.utexas.edu). To access this site, students must have an uteid and password. Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the email address which UT has on file is a valid address which is checked regularly. N.B. Certain email providers (yahoo mail for one) automatically mark any bulk email as spam.

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Any student found cheating will be referred to Student Judicial Services with my recommendation that he or she receive a failing grade (F) for the course. Cheating is anything that attempts to circumvent the process of teaching, learning, and assessment. It may include, but is not limited to, copying off another person's quizzes, exams, or homework; or getting someone else to do your work for you. It also includes the use of unauthorized material/devices while taking a test. If you are unsure about the exact definition you should consult the General information catalogue, Appendix, Section 11-802.

http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi06-07/app/appc11.html#Subchapter11-802

*If you are still unsure, don’t risk it.

Email Abuse

Use of Blackboard's email should be for course-related messages only; please see UT Austin Acceptable Use Policy. Messages such as selling football tickets and posting party invites are not considered course-related. Violations of the UT Austin Acceptable Use Policy will be vigorously pursued. Violators may face disciplinary action including, but not limited to verbal warnings, negative impact on grades, or loss of email privileges. For more information on reporting emails that you believe violate the policy, please visit the UT Austin Acceptable Use Policy website.

https://www.utexas.edu/cio/policies/aup/index.php

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health
Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police

**Students with Disabilities**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for
qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities
at 471-6259 (voice), 329-3986 (video phone), and on their website:
http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

**Important Dates**

**January 21**  
Friday Last day of the official add/drop period; after this date, changes in registration require the
approval of the department chair and usually the student’s dean.

**February 2**  
Wednesday Last day to drop a class for a possible refund.

**March 14–19 – NO CLASS**  
Monday–Saturday Spring break.

**March 28**  
Monday Last day an undergraduate student may, with the dean’s approval, withdraw from the
University or drop a class except for urgent and substantiated, nonacademic reasons. Last day a
student may change registration in a class to or from the pass/fail or credit/no credit basis

**May 6**  
Friday Last class day

**NO FINAL EXAM**

**Tentative Reading Schedule**

By tentative, I mean that this schedule is subject to change. See above. Please do the assigned readings
and exercises **before** coming to class.

1. 1/19 Welcome and Introduction
2. 1/21 User’s Guide and Ch. 1: Basic Term Components

3. 1/24
4. 1/26
5. 1/28 Ch. 2 Health Care Records

6. 1/31
7. 2/2
8. 2/4 **TEST 1**

9. 2/7 Ch. 3: Integumentary System
10. 2/9
11. 2/11  Ch. 4: Musculoskeletal System

12. 2/14
13. 2/16
14. 2/18   TEST 2

15. 2/21  Ch. 5: Cardiovascular System
16. 2/23
17. 2/25  Ch. 6: Blood and Lymphatic System

18. 2/28  Ch. 7: Respiratory System
19. 3/2
20. 3/4   TEST 3

21. 3/7   Ch. 8: Nervous System and Psychiatry
22. 3/9
23. 3/11  *NO CLASS*

24. 3/14   NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK
25. 3/16   NO CLASS-SPRING BREAK
26. 3/18   NO CLASS-SPRING BREAK

27. 3/21  Ch. 9: Endocrine System
28. 3/23
29. 3/25   TEST 4

30. 3/28  Ch. 10: The Eye
31. 3/30
32. 4/1

33. 4/4   Ch. 11: The Ear
34. 4/6
35. 4/8   TEST 5

36. 4/11  Ch. 12: The Gastrointestinal System
37. 4/13
38. 4/15

39. 4/18  Ch. 13: Urinary System
40. 4/20
41. 4/22   TEST 6

42. 4/25  Ch. 14: Male Reproductive System
43. 4/27
44. 4/29  Ch. 15: Female Reproductive System

45. 5/2
46. 5/4
47. 5/6   TEST 7