

UGA School of Medicine Course 3: Brain & Behavior Syllabus

Course Title/Number: Brain & Behavior/MEDI5161

Course Description: This course will provide students with an integrated curriculum that supports an understanding of the structure and function of the nervous system in human health and disease and behavioral health in the context of overall patient care.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Prerequisites, co requisites, and cross-listings: N/A

Course Objectives:

1. Apply foundational knowledge of normal human biology to explain the integrated role of the nervous system in maintaining homeostasis and adapting across the lifespan.
2. Analyze how changes of the nervous system lead to disease, and relate these changes to risk factors, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis.
3. Synthesize clinical findings, pathophysiology, and critically appraised literature to develop prioritized differential diagnoses and formulate patient-centered evaluation and management plans for acute and chronic conditions and health maintenance, with focus on neuroscience and behavioral health.
4. Formulate clinical questions and identify appropriate scientific resources and technologies, applying critical appraisal of research and data for medical decision-making.
5. Perform comprehensive and problem-focused clinical evaluations, including medical history taking, system-based physical examinations, and basic procedures (e.g., ultrasound).
6. Demonstrate patient-centered communication to foster therapeutic relationships and adapt to the values, preferences, and experiences of patients and their families.
7. Utilize self-awareness and external feedback for self-reflection to identify strengths and knowledge gaps to continuously evaluate and improve personal and professional performance.
8. Demonstrate effective teamwork by collaborating with patients, colleagues, and other healthcare professionals, communicating clearly, sharing responsibility, and providing constructive feedback.

9. Exhibit ethical and professional behavior while maintaining a patient-centered approach and applying medical ethics principles to broader health policy and systemic challenges.
10. Analyze the complexities of healthcare systems and the impact of social determinants of health on cost, patient access, quality of care, and health outcomes.
11. Demonstrate professional identity formation by integrating personal values with clinical responsibilities and applying self-care strategies that support well-being and patient safety.
12. Analyze the impact of public health principles and social, environmental, and structural determinants of health on individual patient care to identify systemic challenges and propose strategies to reduce healthcare disparities and improve health outcomes.

Topical Outline:

- Central nervous system structure and function
- Brainstem and cranial nerves
- Sensory and motor systems physiology
- Anatomy and histology of the head, neck, and special senses
- Cognition, aging, and neurocognitive disorders
- Behavioral health, neurodevelopment, and mental health disorders
- Clinical Skills
- Evidence-Based Medicine
- Community & Population Health
- Ethics, Professionalism, and Professional Identity Formation
- Simulation

Required Texts/Reading:

Required Texts for this Course:

Grant's Dissector (provided)

Bates' Pocket Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking (provided)

Please refer to the course outline for other required materials and in which week they are required.

Course Assignments:

EBM Search assignment: Treatment (due week 16)

CPH CITI Training (due week 16)

CPH Reflection (due week 19)

Grading Policy:

Please refer to the UGA SOM Grading Policy.

Grade breakdown for this course:

Course component	% Contribution to overall grade
SGL	15
EBM Search assignment: Treatment	2
SP encounters	6 (2 @ 3%)
Anatomy lab practical	12
Weekly quizzes	20 (5 @ 3%; 1 @ 5%)
Final exam	45
Total:	100

UGA Student Honor Code:

"I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."

A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at honesty.uga.edu. Every course syllabus should include the instructor's expectations related to academic honesty.

Attendance Policy:

[UGA SOM Attendance Policy](#)

Attendance is mandatory for all activities that are small group activities including but not limited to Small Group Learning, Clinical Skills, CPH site visits, Ultrasound, Procedures, Simulations, and Anatomy.

Remediation will be determined by the course and thread director depending on the session/assessment missed.

Missed weekly quizzes or final exams will be made up on the next available open business day.

Use of Generative AI:

Students should refer to the [UGA SOM Artificial Intelligence Use by Medical Students Policy](#) and course materials for guidance on permitted use of AI in curricular activities. Students must not enter proprietary information, intellectual property, or copyright protected information into AI without express permission of the owners of the material. This includes all curricular materials such as faculty generated instructional materials and SGL cases.

UGA Well-Being Resources:

- UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.
- Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.
- UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.
- Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu
 - Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu
 - University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu
 - Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
 - Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu
 - Accessibility and Testing: accessibility.uga.edu
- Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.