Instructor and Contact Information

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Email: rgrubs@pitt.edu
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

With clinical cases from various clinical genetics service units, this seminar illustrates and provides insights into the medical, ethical, and psychosocial aspects of genetic disorders. In this seminar style course, health care providers and students present interesting clinical genetic cases for discussion.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, each student will:

- Recognize a variety of genetic conditions commonly seen in clinical practice
- Describe some of the clinical tests used to diagnose genetic disorders
- Identify genetic counseling concerns relevant to families who are living with genetic disorders
- Compare different approaches to presenting clinical cases

Course Format and Delivery

This class utilizes Canvas for class content. Notifications will be sent regarding course content throughout the semester. Student should make sure to set up their Canvas to receive email notifications from Canvas and please check for announcements and notifications on a regular basis. The schedule of sessions is also posted to the Department of Human Genetics website: https://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/human-genetics/research-and-practice/journal-clubs-and-seminars/clinical-genetics-case-conference

For the first two weeks of the semester until September 13th, students will have the option of attending class in person or using Zoom for remote course access. It is expected that after this period, class will take place in person. However, due to the shifting nature of the pandemic, it may be necessary to alter the delivery of the course. Any changes will be shared with students via announcements on Canvas. Given the pandemic, it is important that students abide by public health regulations and University of Pittsburgh health standards and guidelines. For example, at this time, face coverings are required indoors for everyone regardless of vaccination status. For the most up-to-date information and guidance, please visit https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/. If you are sick, please do not come to class in-person. Please email the course instructor who will determine the most appropriate make-up plan for class depending on the content.

When presenters provide permission, their presentation will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas. Recordings will only be available for the semester and should not be distributed for non-class purposes. Should a student
not be able to attend class, the recordings can be viewed at a later date. Attendance is part of the grade for the course (please see the section on student evaluation and grading) and when a session is missed, a student should alert the instructor to the absence and indicate when the recorded presentations were viewed.

**Required Texts**

None

**Requirements**

Second year genetic counseling students are required to present a clinical case of their choice. They will complete a self-assessment of their presentation and will be provided with a rubric to facilitate this process. *The self-assessment will be due no later than one week after the presentation. Please upload the completed rubric for the self-assessment to Canvas.*

All other students will be required to submit a document describing six concepts they learned from the presentations during the semester. The description of each concept can be brief and comprised of a sentence or two. This document is due by December 14, 2021. *Please upload the document to Canvas.*

**Student Performance Evaluation and Grading**

For the second year genetic counseling students, grading is based on the completion of the self-assessment presentation document and attendance. For all other students, grading is based on the completion of the document describing six concepts and attendance. When there are 3 or more unexcused absences, a NC (no credit) grade will be given. An online sign-in sheet will be available each week in Canvas to document attendance.

**Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to adhere to the school’s standards of academic honesty. Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. The Graduate School of Public Health’s policy on academic integrity, which is based on the University policy, is available online in the Pitt Public Health Academic Handbook [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/home/academics/academic-requirements](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/home/academics/academic-requirements). The policy includes obligations for faculty and students, procedures for adjudicating violations, and other critical information. Please take the time to read this policy.

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor(s) and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Sexual Misconduct, Required Reporting and Title IX Statement**

The University is committed to combatting sexual misconduct. As a result, you should know that University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct, including harassment and sexual violence, to the University’s Title IX office so that the victim may be provided appropriate resources and support options. What this means is that as your professors, we are required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to us, or of which we are somehow made aware.
There are two important exceptions to this requirement about which you should be aware:
A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix/make-report/report-form

An important exception to the reporting requirement exists for academic work. Disclosures about sexual misconduct that are shared as part of an academic project, classroom discussion, or course assignment, are not required to be disclosed to the University’s Title IX office.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct, Pitt encourages you to reach out to these resources:
• Title IX Office: 412-648-7860
• SHARE @ the University Counseling Center: 412-648-7930 (8:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. M-F) and 412-648-7856 (AFTER BUSINESS HOURS)

If you have a safety concern, please contact the University of Pittsburgh Police, 412-624-2121. Other reporting information is available here: https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix-compliance/make-report

Statement from the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
[This statement was developed by Katie Pope, Title IX Coordinator, in conjunction with GSWS instructors.]

**Diversity Statement**

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. Pitt Public Health is committed to creating and fostering inclusive learning environments that value human dignity and equity and promote social justice. Every member of our community is expected to be respectful of the individual perspectives, experiences, behaviors, worldviews, and backgrounds of others. While intellectual disagreement may be constructive, no derogatory statements, or demeaning or discriminatory behavior will be permitted.

If you feel uncomfortable or would like to discuss a situation, please contact any of the following:
• the course director or course instructor;
• the Pitt Public Health Associate Dean responsible for diversity and inclusion;
• the University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 412-648-7860 or
• https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix/make-report/report-form (anonymous reporting form)

This course covers multi-dimensional academic topics. Students are expected to share their views and be respectful of others’ opinions. This will ensure a learning environment that values diverse experiences and expertise, which will facilitate Pitt Public Health's collaborative approach to solving problems.

**Copyright Notice**

Course material may be protected by copyright. United States copyright law, 14 USC section 101, et sec., in addition to University policy and procedures, prohibit unauthorized duplication or retransmission of course materials. See Library of Congress Copyright Office and the University Copyright Policy.

**Schedule ofSessions**

Additional speakers may be added throughout the semester.

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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| September 9, 2021 | 1. Phuc Do  
                        2. Claire Plack  
                        3. Haley Soller |
| September 16, 2021 | 1. Aika Miikeda |
| September 23, 2021 | No session—NSGC Annual Conference |
| September 30, 2021 | 1. Frank Swan |
| October 7, 2021 | 1. Vickie Bacon  
                        2. Liz Sheehan  
                        3. Natalie Tri |
| October 14, 2021 | 1. Maria Rhine  
                        2. Bailey Sasseville |
| October 21, 2021 | No session—ASHG Meeting |
| October 28, 2021 | 1. Savannah Binion  
                        2. Kristen D’Aquila |
| November 4, 2021 | 1. Elizabeth Bombal |
| November 11, 2021 | 1. Kelsey Bohnert  
                        2. Tanner Freeman |
| November 18, 2021 | No session—Comprehensive Exam for Second Year Genetic Counseling Students |
| November 25, 2021 | No session—Thanksgiving Break |
| December 2, 2021 | 1. Lauren Garcia  
                        2. Rachelle Huziak |
| December 9, 2021 | 1. Julia Knapo  
                        2. Jessica Sebastian |