Instructor: Kym Long-Wallace
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Course Catalog Description:
An examination of the factors involved in the selection and evaluation of health services and products. Topics will also include quackery, consumer protection laws and organizations, and health insurance considerations.

Course Learning Objectives:
Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Describe and discuss intelligently the different aspects of the healthcare “system” in the United States.
- Discuss concepts related to health insurance.
- Discuss various efforts to reform the healthcare “system,” especially the Affordable Care Act and efforts to repeal it.
- Describe how drugs and medical devices are produced and approved in the United States.
- Discuss the concept of vulnerable populations and their protection in medical research.
- Describe health equity/health disparities and social determinants of health.
- Recognize the importance of self-responsibility in healthcare.
- Identify and discuss viable and fraudulent types of complementary and alternative medicine.
- Recognize health fraud as well as deceptive practices in medical advertising.
- Describe consumer protection laws and the rationale behind them.
Course Materials

Other readings and materials as assigned. Most of these readings are on the content page of the OAKS class website.

Grading:
Grades will be based on the following opportunities:
Mid-term exam 100 points
Final exam 100 points
Individual presentation 100 points
Group presentation 100 points
Discussion questions 30 points
TOTAL 430 points

Mid-term exam:
The midterm exam will be held on October 9 during class. It will be composed of a variety of multiple choice, true false, matching, and short essay. A study guide will be posted.

Final exam:
The final exam will be held on December 6 from 8-11 a.m. The format will be similar to the midterm and a study guide will be posted.

Individual presentations:
Each student will prepare and a present a 5-6 minute presentation. Topics will be chosen from the list under the content tab. Presentation dates for each student will also be posted by August 28. Complete information about the project will be listed under the content tab on the OAKS class site.

Group presentations:
Groups of 5 will prepare and present a 10-11 minute presentation. Topics and groups will be assigned by September 23. Complete information about the project will be listed under the content tab on the OAKS class site.
Discussion questions:
Two discussion questions will be posted under the communication tab on the OAKS website. Each student will post to the discussion boards and will respond to two classmates’ posts. Detailed instructions will be listed under the discussion tab (click on communication on the OAKS site)

The grading scale is as follows:
92%+ A
89-91% A-
86-88% B+
82-85% B
79-81% B-
76-78% C+
72-75% C
69-71% C-
66-68% D+
63-65% D
60-62% D-
Below 60% F

Attendance: 1) Attendance is expected at every class. You are allowed a maximum of three absences, whether excused or unexcused. For each absence above the maximum, one point comes off the final grade. For example, you finish the class with a 72 (C) but you have missed four classes. This fourth absence brings your final grade to a 71 (C-). Do not blow these three absences. Save them in case a family emergency or illness causes you to miss class later in the semester.
2) You are considered tardy if you arrive in class more than three minutes after the start time. After three tardies, an absence is recorded. If you do arrive in class late, notify the instructor at the end of class. Otherwise, you may be assessed an absence instead of a tardy. If you arrive more than fifteen minutes late, you are considered absent.
Policies:
www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/general_info/studenthandbook.html. This student handbook is a guide to your responsibilities and rights as a student.

Academic Honesty- Faculty members are required to report violations of the honor code to the Office of Student Affairs. If you are found guilty, your grade in the class will be XF and this will be indicated on your transcript. Examples of cheating include giving or receiving aid during a graded activity, using any type of "cheat sheet", copying from or looking at another person's graded activity, or submitting another person's work as your own.

Classroom Behavior- 1) Inappropriate classroom behavior includes any which disrupts instruction by the professor or learning by the students. Students who engage in such behavior will have to leave the classroom, will receive no credit for attendance or in class activities for that day, and must meet with the instructor before the next class. Severe cases will be referred to the Dean of Students.
2) Please take care of bathroom breaks before class. Students leaving and returning to class disrupt the environment.
3) You will be counted absent for the day if you spend class time working on other material; this includes reading or working on materials for other classes.

Electronic Devices- All cell phones, music devices, and any other electronic devices must be turned off (no sounds) during class. Laptops are allowed as long as you are using them to take notes. You may not surf the internet or work on another class assignment. Any student seen using the laptop for any activity other than taking notes will lose the privilege of having the laptop open in class and will be counted as absent for the class period.

Disability- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to "reasonable accommodations." Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course.
Tentative Class Schedule:
August 19  Introduction  Chapter 1
August 21  View documentary “Sicko”
August 26  View documentary “Sicko”
August 28  Fraud and Quackery  Chapters 3, 9
September 2  Viewing of “Money Talks”
September 4  What is your zip code?  Reading 1
September 9  “Unnatural Causes”
September 11  Weight Control  Chapter 8, Reading 2
September 16, 18, 23, 25, 30  Individual Presentations
October 2, 7  Health Care System  Chapters 2 & 4, Reading 3
October 9  Midterm exam
October 14  Food Fallacies  Chapter 7, Reading 4
October 16  Health Consumer Protection  Chapter 10
October 17  Discussion 1 due
October 21, 23  CAM  Chapter 6, Reading 5
October 24  Responses to Discussion 1 due
October 28  Fitness Fads and Products  Reading 6
October 30  Elder Care  Reading 7
November 6  RX/ Non-RX Drugs  Chapter 5, Reading 8
November 11, 13  Current Trends (Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria, comprehensive sexuality education)
November 12  Discussion 2 due
November 18  Current Trends (E-cigarettes, vaccine refusals, breastfeeding)
November 20  Responses to Discussion 2 Due
November 20, 25  Group Presentations