University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Physician Assistant Department  
PHAS 7415 Bridge Clinical Track I  
Medical Knowledge and Professionalism  
Summer 2019

Course Number: PHAS 7415

Credit Hours: 4 Semester Credit Hour

Course Title: Bridge Clinical Track I

Course Location: On-line

Course Dates: June 3 – August 16

Class Time(s):
This is the first of three 4week modules. The course is essentially self-paced except for dates and times when exams are to be taken. All of the Bridge Clinical Track modules are presented exclusively on-line, through the UTRGV Website, my.utrgv.edu, and then access Blackboard Learn by clicking on to the app at the left column area. There are no on-campus or classroom requirements. On-line access is available 24-hours a day, throughout the entire semester except on the dates that IT is updating the system and you will be advised about it. Within the time constraints and due dates, each module can be accomplished at the student’s own pace. The Course Facilitator is available for consultation during the hours posted via Blackboard Learn e-mail communication.

Required Texts:
No textbooks are required. All reading materials will be provided through Blackboard or an electronic database link through the UTRGV Library. See Appendix for list of resources.

In order for you to function best in the BBL course area you will need to utilize a Firefox browser.

Instructor & Contact Information:
Professor Name: Bassent Abdelbary, MD, MPH, Ph.D.
Office Location: HSHE 2.142
Email address: Bassent.abdelbary@utrgv.edu
Phone contact: (956) 665-2298

All course correspondence will be through Blackboard course messages. Office hours – see the “Instructor Response Time” in the “Welcome” area of the BBL course.
**Course Description:**
This is an advanced clinical course designed to augment and update the existing clinical skills and knowledge of the primary care Physician Assistant. Learning objectives will focus on increasing the core competencies for the PA profession with focus on the medical knowledge and professionalism competencies.

**Course Grading:**
Module grade will be calculated based on the following:
- Bridge Evaluation Form: 10%
- Case Studies: 15%
- Journal Reports: 15%
- Exams: 40%
- Final Exam: 20%

The final course grade will be recorded as:
- A: 90 – 100
- B: 80 - <90
- C: 70 - <80
- F: <70

**Physician Assistant Core Competencies:**
This course will prepare the student to meet certain PA competencies. The PHAS 7415 course outcomes and learning objectives relate to the *Competencies for the Physician Assistant Profession (2012)* as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Competencies for the PA Profession</th>
<th>Specific Competencies Addressed in</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Knowledge:</td>
<td>Competency 1: evidence-based medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes the synthesis of pathophysiology, patient presentation, differential diagnosis, patient management, surgical principles, health promotion, and disease prevention. Physician assistants must demonstrate core knowledge about established and evolving biomedical and clinical sciences</td>
<td>Competency 2: scientific principles related to patient care</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Competency 3: etiologies, risk factors, underlying pathologic process, and epidemiology for medical conditions</td>
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and the application of this knowledge to patient care in their area of practice. In addition, physician assistants are expected to demonstrate an investigative and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations. Physician assistants are expected to understand, evaluate, and apply the following to clinical scenarios:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency 4: signs and symptoms of medical and surgical conditions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Competency 5: appropriate diagnostic studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency 6: management of general medical and surgical conditions to include pharmacologic and other treatment modalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competency 7: interventions for prevention of disease and health promotion/maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency 8: screening methods to detect conditions in an asymptomatic individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competency 9: history and physical findings and diagnostic studies to formulate differential diagnoses</td>
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**Professionalism:**

Professionalism is the expression of positive values and ideals as care is delivered. Foremost, it involves prioritizing the interests of those being served above one’s own. Physician assistants must acknowledge their professional and personal limitations. Professionalism also requires that PAs practice without impairment from substance abuse, cognitive deficiency or mental illness. Physician assistants must demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements. Physician assistants are expected to demonstrate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency 1: understanding of legal and regulatory requirements, as well as the appropriate role of the physician assistant</th>
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<td>Competency 2: professional relationships with physician supervisors and other health care providers respect, compassion, and integrity</td>
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<td>Competency 3: accountability to patients, society, and the profession</td>
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<td>Competency 4: commitment to excellence and ongoing professional development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competency 5: commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competency 6: sensitivity and responsiveness to patients’ culture, age, gender, and abilities</td>
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<td>Competency 7: self-reflection, critical curiosity, and initiative</td>
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<td>Competency 8: healthy behaviors and life balance</td>
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<td>Competency 9: commitment to the education of students and other health care professionals</td>
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**Students with Disabilities:**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility Services:**
**Brownsville Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**Learning and Assessment Activities:**
**Clinical Component**
The clinical component for achievement of the core competencies within each module is conducted at the current employment site. The student must identify a supervising physician to evaluate achievement. The evaluator must complete a Bridge Evaluation Form, and submit indicating an overall evaluation of performance at the end of the semester.

**Exams (all exams follow the new PANRE blueprint)**
There will be three exams of 40 questions for the first three weeks. A final exam of 25 questions at the end of the fourth week. Each exam will be found at [https://utrgv.myexammasater.com](https://utrgv.myexammasater.com). All exams will open the Sunday night that precedes the week and there will be 1000 minutes assigned to take it. The purpose of this is to allow you to “research” the questions. You will be able to leave the exam as needed and
return to it without loss of time. A grade of 75 or higher must be earned on each exam. Individual feedback will be provided if the grade is less than 75 and the student will be allowed a onetime retake to improve their grade. If second attempt score is below 75, the higher of the two scores will be recorded. Once a grade of 75 or better is earned/second attempt completed, each exam will be opened up for review.

In order for you to participate in the exams you will have to do the following:

Log on to https://utrgv.myexammaster.com and create an account using your UTRGV email only; other emails are not acceptable. Do not attempt to change your email after creating your account since changing the email will not give you access to your exam.

**Weekly assignments**

Each week of the four weeks of this module you will have a case study to work on and submit, as well as a journal article report that is relevant to your current practice; see instructions for submission in the BBL area. The case studies and areas for submitting your case study responses and journal report will be found in the “Course Materials” section of the Blackboard Learn course. Follow the schedule as noted in the “Course Materials – Week” area.

**Course Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate Knowledge and identify the associated signs and symptoms of the common medical conditions/diseases.
2. Utilize and interpret of diagnostics and lab findings of the common medical conditions/diseases.
3. Assess and develop a management plan based on the latest options in disease management and therapy.
4. Appropriately educate patients on all aspects of prescribed treatments and prevention measures associated with the most common disease.
5. Apply critical thinking skills to solve in depth case scenarios on an individual basis.
6. Recognize the role of research in the prevention and control of diseases.
7. Demonstrate a high level of responsibility, ethical practice, sensitivity to a diverse patient population, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements

**Course Outline & Schedule:**

Please be aware that the format of this course will require time and self-discipline – more than a typical classroom-based course might. You must be prepared to commit 8-10 hours per week to these studies.
**Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

<table>
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<th>Period</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full Summer Semester</td>
<td>August 8 - 15</td>
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**Course Drops:**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third.

**Calendar of Activities**

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for summer 2019 include:

- Mar. 4 (Mon.)       Registration Begins
- May 29 (Wed.)      Payment Due
- May 31 (Fri.)      Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 100% refund
- Jun. 3 (Mon.)      Summer III classes begin
- Jun. 4 (Tues.)      Last day to add or register for Summer III classes
- Jun. 7 (Fri.)      Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive an 80% refund
- Jun. 12 (Wed.)     Census Day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
- Jun. 14 (Fri.)      Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 70% refund
- Jun. 21 (Fri.)      Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 50% refund (drop all Summer III classes) and receive a 25% refund
- July 4 (Thurs.)    Independence Day. No classes.
- July 29 (Mon.)     Last day to drop (DR grade) a class or withdraw (grade of W)
- Aug. 15 (Thurs.)   Study Day. No classes.
- Aug. 16 (Fri.)     Final Exams
- Aug. 19 (Mon.)     Grades Due at 3 p.m.
**Scholastic Integrity:**

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Plagiarism:**

Specifically, written plagiarized work, defined as submitting as your own work that which contains direct or paraphrased quotes from another source, cannot be used in written assignments. Assignments must reflect the individual’s own work. Any violation of the scholastic integrity pledge will result in failure of the course and disciplinary actions deemed necessary and appropriate by the administration. Plagiarism of any kind will also result in a failing grade for the course. Safe Assign software will be used to detect plagiarism.

**Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence:**

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**

Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be
reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

Appendix:

Library Resources:

AccessMedicine "is a comprehensive online medical resource that provides medical students with a variety of resources needed to excel in basic science studies and clerkships."

AccessNeurology provides ebooks, multimedia, assessments, and curriculum guides on neurology topics.

AccessPediatrics "covers the entire span of pediatric practice, from neonatology through adolescent medicine."

AccessPharmacy "allows users to explore leading pharmacy references, search curriculum topics, research drugs and supplements."

AccessSurgery "enhances medical knowledge and delivers quick answers to surgical inquiries – all in one place."

Anatomy TV is an interactive 3-D human anatomy atlas which features assessment tools, labeled dissection slides, muscle function animations, annotated illustrations, video clips, and cross-sectional anatomy.

ClinicalAccess "is a one-of-a-kind clinical decision support tool offering targeted answers to more than 120,000 questions encountered at the point of care."

ClinicalKey is a clinical search engine that supports clinical decisions by making it easier to find evidence-based information from hundreds of textbooks and medical journals.

Cochrane Collaboration includes abstracts of articles on evidence-based medicine.

The Cochrane Library "is a unique source of reliable and up-to-date information on the effects of interventions in health care...The Cochrane Library is designed to provide information and evidence to support decisions taken in health care and to inform those receiving care."

JAMAevidence provides Evidence based medical care ebooks, guides, calculators, glossary, and more.
MEDICINEnetBASE from CRC, MEDICINEnetBASE contains e-books on topics such as Clinical Medicine, General Reference and Medical Education, and Surgery. MEDLINE (Ovid) “covers the international literature on biomedicine, including the allied health fields and the biological and physical sciences, humanities, and information science as they relate to medicine and health care. Information is indexed from approximately 5,600 journals published world-wide.” Micromedex offers comprehensive evidence-based resources at the point of care for medication management, toxicology, and disease and condition management. CareNotes has complete, easy-to-understand information to give to patients about their conditions, in both English and Spanish. PubMed “a service of the National Library of Medicine, provides access to over 11 million MEDLINE citations back to the mid-1960's and additional life science journals. PubMed includes links to many sites providing full text articles and other related resources.” STAT!Ref enables users to intuitively cross-search full-text titles, journals and evidence-based point-of-care authoritative resources. STAT!Ref provides the latest healthcare information in a customizable and convenient format. STAT!Ref goes where you go, accessible by desktop, laptop and wireless or web-enabled mobile devices. Up To Date "is an evidence-based, physician-authored clinical decision support resource...” useful for making point-of-care decisions in a health care setting.