

**MW 11:15 – 12:45**

**M.H. Antoni, Ph.D. Dept of Psychology, University of Miami**

**Office Hours: Rm 413 Flipse M 1 – 2pm**

**Course Overview**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the field of psycho-oncology. The course will focus on the role of biobehavioral and psychosocial processes involved the etiology, prevention, detection, treatment, and adaptation processes in cancer.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, a student should:

1. Be familiar with the historical development of the field of psycho-oncology.
2. Be familiar with the behavioral science research areas that comprise the field of psycho-oncology.
3. Understand the research indicating the role of psychosocial and biobehavioral factors in the etiology, prevention, detection, treatment, and adaptation processes in cancer.
4. Understand the major methodological issues in conducting and translating the results of research in psycho-oncology.
5. Understand the contemporary challenges for future research and public health and clinical translation in the filed of psycho-oncology

**Course Activities:**

Instruction will involve a combination of assigned readings, didactic presentations, and classroom discussion.

Electronic versions of key readings for the course will be available to all students through UM Blackboard Program.

**Course Assignments and Grading Policy**

Grades in the course will be assigned on the basis of performance with regard to several required activities. These required course activities are the following:

1. Written Critiques

Students will prepare a written critique of an assigned empirical reading (i.e., a journal article). The written critiques will be turned in at the beginning of class on the designated due date. The written critique should focus upon evaluation of the conceptual and methodological strengths and weaknesses of the specific assigned reading. These written critiques should be typed double-spaced with one-inch margins. They should be **no more than two pages in length**. They will be evaluated with respect to content and clarity and conciseness of expression.

A total of two written critiques will be assigned over the course of the semester. Written critique #1 will be **due on 9/28/2005**. Written critique #2 will be **due on 10/12/2005**.

## 2. Brief Research Proposal

Students will prepare one brief research proposal during the semester. The brief research proposal should be **no more than 5 pages in length**, double-spaced 11-pt font. Each brief written research proposal should consist of the following elements:

- a) Title of proposed research project
- b) Brief Rationale and Statement of specific study aims and hypotheses
- c) Background Literature
- d) Research Design and Methods (including study design, recruitment of subjects, and experimental methods employed)
- e) References (not included in the 5 page limit)

The brief research proposal is **due October 26** and should address a research question relevant to one of the topics covered in your readings in the course:

The brief written research proposal should present sufficient detail to enable the reader to understand the nature of the research question being addressed, the significance of the research question being addressed, and the specific methods that will be used to achieve the specific study aims. The brief research proposal will be graded on the basis of the clarity and conciseness of communication, the significance and innovativeness of the research proposed, and the quality of the proposed research design and methods.

## 3. Final Term Paper

The final course requirement will be a 15-20 page double-spaced paper and should conform to APA manuscript style. Topics for these papers may be chosen from the reference handout or from an area of the student's choice within the broad field of Psycho-oncology. The ideal presentation should (1) focus on a specific cancer-related phenomena in one of the four points in the cancer prevention and control continuum, (2) present a clear rationale for the putative role of psychosocial and/or biobehavioral processes, (3) provide an up-to-date and comprehensive literature review, and (4) summarize the state of the science and ongoing/future work in the area. The best papers are those that are focused, sequential and programmatic.

**The full length term paper is to be turned in by 5:00 PM (Eastern Time) on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.**

#### 4. Class participation

It is important that students be prepared for each class (i.e., have read and thought about readings assigned for each class session) and that they participate in the discussion and activities appropriate for each class.

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Written Critiques	20% (i.e., 10% each)
Brief Research Proposal	20%
Full Length Term Paper	50%
Class Participation	10%

#### Other Policies:

Honor code. I expect all students to abide by the rules of the University including the Honor Code and any other guidelines for ethical conduct. Plagiarism in any form will be ground for failing the class. A significant part of the course grades is based upon integrative writing. You are expected to produce writing products that are original and based upon your own synthesis of the literature. Pasting together sections of prior published and unpublished reviews will not be acceptable.

Class Attendance. I expect students to be present and on time for each class. The class material builds on prior lecture and discussion materials. Although you will have access to some of the class lecture material by way of Powerpoint presentations on the UM Blackboard program you will need to be present in class to get the maximum effects of the course. Should you be unable to attend a class you will need to email me at: [Mantoni@miami.edu](mailto:Mantoni@miami.edu) at least 24hrs prior to class to inform me of the reasons for your absence. I will also be arranging for you to attend a laboratory tour of one of the Immunology labs at the Medical School. Attendance will be mandatory.