



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF ANTIGUA
COLLEGE OF
MEDICINE



KASTURBA
MEDICAL
COLLEGE

C/O Greater Caribbean Learning Resources

FIFTH SEMESTER INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL MEDICINE

COURSE SYLLABUS 15 CREDITS

Administrative Office: 2 Wall Street 10th Fl
New York, NY 10005
Tel: 212 - 661-8899 Fax: 212 - 661-8864
1-888-AUA-UMED (1-888-282-8633)
Email: info@auamed.org www.auamed.org

Manipal Education & Medical Group
Manipal 576104 India
Tel: 91-820 2571978/79 Fax: 01-820 2571982/257062
Email: kmc_aumed@manipal.edu
www.manipal.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD

I. GENERAL	4 - 11
A PREREQUISITES	4
B. PURPOSE	4
C. OBJECTIVES	4 - 5
D. THEMES AND FINAL OUTCOMES	5
E. COMPONENTS	5 - 10
a) Course on History and Physical examination	5
b) In-Hospital Clinical Rotation	6
c) Out-Patient Clinical Rotation	7
d) Basic Sciences - Clinical Correlation Course	8
e) Presentation of Clinical Cases	9
f) Portfolio	9
g) Quizzes and Exams	10
II. ACADEMIC POLICIES	10 - 11
III. EVALUATION AND GRADING	11
a) Passing Grade Minimal requirements	11
b) Components included in Grade Calculation	12
c) Student Evaluation of Academic Activities	13
IV. BOOKS, LIBRARIES AND ON-LINE RESOURCES	12
V. STUDENT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS	13

FOREWORD

A BRIDGE TO CLINICAL MEDICINE

The purpose of the AUA College of Medicine is to educate excellent physicians who are prepared to deliver effective and compassionate treatment and preventive care to patients and their families. The fifth semester is the beginning of a pivotal time in this process. It encompasses the transition from the basic medical sciences to the clinical disciplines.

This syllabus is carefully designed to provide students with the maximum opportunity to make this transition a productive learning experience. It will serve as the main guide for lectures, practical sessions and definitions of weekly academic goals. The syllabus is complemented by the "Fifth Semester Guidelines" booklet which includes schedules and operational instructions.

The three-fold goal of the fifth semester is a). to help student master the skills of taking a patient's history. b). to develop the art and technique of physical examination and c) to integrate basic science into clinical diagnostics and critical patient evaluation.

The Fifth Semester Course includes lectures, oral and written case presentations, clinical rotations, review of core concepts and facts through quizzes, examinations, clinical discussions and a portfolio that includes the summary and evaluation of students' experiences.

The University strives to offer similar clinical learning opportunities for each student, however exact duplication is impossible. Each student's experience will be slightly different because of the particular characteristics of each practice site. Therefore, students need to be proactive in making their experience as productive as possible. To that end, they will have a variety of resources, including individual counseling.

The teaching and administrative staff has made significant efforts to carefully organize the Fifth Semester Course. The University expects students to respond with punctuality, outstanding professional appearance, and total, full time dedication.

Evaluation of students is based on the actual acquisition of individual skills, development of professional attitudes, efforts to reach the established goals, quizzes and examination scores. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate lectures, practices, and all activities. Their input is critical in developing and advancing the University's academic program.

I. GENERAL

A. PREREQUISITES FOR ENROLLMENT INTO 5TH SEMESTER

1. Successful completion of four semesters in Basic Medical Sciences, including Anatomy, Embryology, Histology, Behavioral Sciences, Biochemistry, Genetics, Physiology, Microbiology, Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Biostatistics, Doctor, Patient and Society, and Introduction to Clinical Medicine.
2. Completion of Registration procedures via AUA policies and specific requirements of the Hospital training sites.
3. Commitment to full time involvement in and dedication to the academic activities of the Course.

B. PURPOSE AND GOAL

The purpose of the course is for students to acquire the necessary clinical skills, to formulate diagnostic hypothesis and to correlate the latter with the fundamental facts and concepts of the Basic Sciences.

The goal of the course is to prepare students to successfully complete subsequent clinical clerkships.

C. OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Obtain comprehensive and relevant health histories through effective communication with patients and families.
2. Carry out full general physical examination of all body systems.
3. Distinguish normal conditions from abnormal symptoms and signs.
4. Understand the role of diagnostic testing in the medical examination process.

5. Collect, logically organize, and document the information related to patients' condition.
6. Formulate working diagnoses expressed as syndromes, specific pathological processes, or diseases.
7. Understand the interaction between physicians and other health professionals.
8. Present in an effective manner clinical cases in both verbal and written form before peers, preceptors and other medical audiences.
9. Identify and learn the links between basic and clinical sciences.
10. Explain symptoms and signs on the basis of physiological, pathological, and biochemical changes occurring in the human body.
11. Start the in-depth study of *General Clinical Sciences*, including Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Gynecology, Obstetrics, Family Medicine and Psychiatry.
12. Collect clinical data from individual patients related to primary prevention based on life cycles and secondary prevention of prevalent illnesses in the USA.
13. Understand and properly apply the clinical and technical terms used by the medical profession to describe symptoms, signs and syndromes.

D. THEMES AND FINAL OUTCOMES

The booklet "Fifth Semester Guidelines" includes Schedules, Themes and Final Outcomes by academic activity.

E. COMPONENTS

The first twelve (12) weeks of the fifteen- week semester are dedicated to lectures and clinical rotations. Students will use the final three (3) weeks for

completing their portfolio, reviewing and studying the course materials, testing, and evaluation activities.

a) Course on History and Physical Examination

This course provides an in-depth review of the techniques and methods for the elaboration of clinical histories and the examination of the human body systems. The course consists of twenty (20) core lectures and nine (9) Practical Sessions by experienced specialists.

b) In-Hospital Clinical Rotation

The objective of the In-Hospital Clinical rotation is to demonstrate the practical aspects of elaborating clinical histories and performing physical examinations on patients admitted to the Hospital. This is a valuable tool in reinforcing the concepts, theories, techniques and facts presented in Course lectures.

During this rotation the students will engage in proactive learning with the residents and preceptors assigned to them. Students' responsibilities include:

1. Observing residents' work, asking pertinent questions and taking notes in their Journal.
2. Developing a good rapport with patients, attending physicians, nurses and other health professionals
3. Assisting practicing physicians in examining patients when requested.
4. Communicating with patients face-to face, taking clinical histories and observing examination techniques.
5. Accessing and reviewing charts as authorized by physicians and elaborating full write-ups on selected patients. **Due to confidentiality laws and regulations, students cannot use or disclose the names of patients or give other identifying information in the write-up of cases.**

6. Assisting in medical procedures when requested.
7. Participating in case discussions and presentations.
8. Discussing the interpretation of laboratory tests and other diagnostic exams and procedures.
9. Discussing differential diagnoses and treatment plans with the residents and attending-physicians.
10. Attending all available lectures and other academic activities scheduled in the Hospital, including morning rounds, sign-in and sign-out rounds, morning and afternoon lectures.

c) Out-Patient Clinical Rotation

During this rotation, students will work in pairs to see patients in the offices of physician-preceptors, who will mentor according to the schedule provided by each Course Director. The physician-preceptors have been in medical practice for several years and will provide students with an exceptional opportunity to observe both the operation of a private practice and the management of patients in an outpatient setting. **Due to confidentiality laws and regulations, students cannot use or disclose patients' names or give other identifying information in writing-up cases during their clinical rotations.**

Under the continuous supervision of the physician-preceptors, students will carry out the following activities:

1. Observing the preceptors performing physical examination of their patients with special attention to the system presented and discussed during the previous week's lecture.
2. Performing portions of the examination demonstrated and allowed by the preceptor.
3. Gathering the necessary information and writing the clinical history of the patients assigned by the preceptor.

4. Identifying new patients and following-up with patients on whom the student wishes to do full write-ups using the formats suggested during the Course or included in the textbook. The preceptor must approve the student's request to use the clinical information contained in the charts.
5. Verbally presenting to the preceptor a minimum of one case per day during the rotation in the preceptor's office.

The Outpatient Rotation Schedule appears in the "Fifth Semester Guidelines" booklet.

d) Basic Sciences - Clinical Correlation On-line Course

This On-line based Course is scheduled and managed at the AUA Headquarters in New York. It will help students establish the necessary correlation between Basic Sciences and Clinical Sciences. The case studies will challenge students with both diagnoses and management of relevant clinical cases.

Students will answer an average of 200 questions weekly and a total of 2,000 questions within a three- day testing period assigned by the Course Director. The purpose of the test is to identify gaps in students' knowledge. The On-line Course will provide the correct answers, enabling students to refine study skills, improve basic and clinical science correlations, as well as, provide guidance in addressing individual knowledge needs.

In addition to working on-line individually, students are encouraged to study the questions collectively to optimize academic success. Ultimately, the On-line course is only one of many tools enabling students to successfully meet the challenge of future evaluations. There is no substitute for the assiduous study of texts and the regular attendance of lectures.

Although the University will not factor On-line test scores into the final grade for the fifth semester, each student must answer a minimum of 1600 questions in order to obtain a passing grade.

e) Presentation of Clinical Cases

The goal of this component is to develop students' ability to write concise and relevant medical histories and to make concise and well-structured verbal case presentations before peers and teaching staff.

To that end, students need to use and apply the knowledge and skills which they have learned and developed in questioning and examining patients during both the In-patient and Out-patient rotations.

Practicing this valuable skill at every opportunity will guarantee success in future clerkships, obtaining the M.D. degree, and securing a residency position.

f) **Portfolio**

Students will register all their individual academic and practical experiences in a Portfolio which will be submitted at the end of the 11th week of the Course.

This indexed document will include:

1. Fifteen "two minutes" write-ups of clinical cases the students saw during hospital and outpatient rotations, including two respiratory cases, three cardiovascular cases, two GI cases, and one case related to each one of the other body systems. Out of these cases, the student will pick three for verbal presentation.
2. Fifteen written templates of the most significant illness, syndrome or pathological condition affecting the above patients. (The templates are summaries from Medical Textbooks of the most frequent symptoms, epidemiological (risk) factors, and signs that characterize each entity and of the state of the art diagnostic confirmatory tests and treatments).
3. Two full write-ups of hospital admissions of patients that the student has seen and followed up. They include full descriptions of the Admission History and Physical, the Hospital Course, the discharge disposition and a brief clinical discussion of one of the health issues affecting the patient.

4. The form *Clinical Cases Discussed, Observed, and Examined During Fall 2007* which includes the list of all new patients that the student saw during clinical rotations as well as previous patients who presented with new clinical problems.

5. The form *Academic Activities Attended* listing all academic sessions that the students actually attended in and outside the Hospital.

6. The form *Correlation Course Tests Taken* including the number of questions answered and the individual scores.

7. A general student evaluation of the Course and of individual lectures, practical sessions and rotations.

The booklet "Fifth Semester Guidelines" provides detailed suggestions on how to prepare the Portfolio.

g. Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes and exams will be important tools in the evaluation and grading of students. The Course also uses them as important learning tools. To that end the teaching staff will routinely discuss with students the quizzes and exam questions as part of the core curriculum of the course. The Course provides ample opportunities to reinforce concepts and facts.

Students will take approximately fourteen (14) quizzes and tests related to the Course lectures and practical sessions. The final written exam will include the same material covered by the quizzes. The practical exam will consist on the interview and examination of a patient at the Preceptors' office.

II. ACADEMIC POLICIES

A. Mandatory Attendance and Punctual Arrival at Sites

AUA/KMC students must attend at least 85% of lectures and practical sessions. The university permits three (3) absences of clinical sessions per student during

the entire semester. **Only the Course Director or the Dean of Clinical Sciences can authorize any deviation from this policy.**

To request an absence from a clinical assignment, students must submit to the Course Director a written request one week prior the requested absence.

Failure to comply with attendance policy may result in the lowering of the final grade, failing the rotation, or dismissal.

B. Conduct

The AUA expects students to exhibit the highest level of professional standards, behavior, and integrity. Professional appearance and attitude are essential to a quality doctor-patient relationship.

C) Mandatory Attire

The attire for males is a dress shirt, tie and trousers and for females, a dress, skirt or slacks with blouses. Students must wear white coats and AUA/KMC identification tags when at the Hospital or on its grounds and when seeing patients at any location. Teachers and preceptors will not allow violators to participate in the academic or practical sessions

D) Disaster Precautions

A Disaster Preparation Booklet includes a safety plan for students attending the Hospital and is available upon request at the Hospital.

III. EVALUATION AND GRADING

A) Passing Grade Minimal requirements

❖ Minimal total course grade	75%
❖ Minimal lectures attendance	85% (18 lectures)
❖ Minimal practical sessions attendance	85%
❖ Minimal Hospital lectures and other Academic sessions attendance	50%*

❖ Minimal Out-patient sessions attendance	90%
❖ Minimal Correlation Course questions	80% (1,600)
❖ Minimal total quizzes score	60%
❖ Minimal final written exam score	80%
❖ Minimal final practical exam Score	80%

** During Hospital rotations*

B) Components included in Grade Calculation

❖ Attendance to Course lectures	10 %
❖ Practical session reports	5%
❖ Outpatient Preceptor evaluation	5%
❖ Verbal 2-minutes presentation of clinical cases	5%
❖ Portfolio	10%
❖ Quizzes	35%
❖ Final written Exam	20%
❖ Final Practical Exam	10%

C) Student Evaluation of Academic Activities

Students will submit an evaluation of every lecture and academic activity in which they have been involved, making suggestions for improvement. The *Fifth Semester Guidelines* booklet includes the respective forms and instructions.

IV. BOOKS, LIBRARIES AND ON-LINE RESOURCES

1. **Mosby's Guide to the Physical Exam**, 6th Edition, Mosby, 2006 and accompanying CD which is the required textbook.
2. **MKSAP for Students 3** Developed by the American College of Physicians - Clerkship Directors in Internal medicine, 2005 and accompanying CD
3. **Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine**, 16th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2005 printing

4. **The on-site Hospital Library** containing collections of updated books, journals, and modern audiovisual equipment.

5. **American College of Physicians/ACP:** Enroll for a free Student Membership on line or by phone at 800-523-1546, extension 2711. Some enrollment benefits, in addition to membership in the largest medical specialty society include the opportunity to explore the internal medicine profession, access to members-only sections of ACP Online, free attendance at scientific meetings, a subscription to *Impact*, an on-line newsletter for medical students, and discount eligibility to some programs and products.

6. **Exam Master.** The Fifth Semester entry is:

<http://www.exammaster2.com/wdsentry/aua-balt.htm>

V. STUDENT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

A. Student Services Coordinator

Dr. J. Ernesto Calderon, Dean, Clinical Sciences, AUA

Office: 410 636 - 2222
Cellular: 443 463 - 6182
E-mail: jecmpark@aol.com

B. Academic Counseling

Course Directors (Miami, Baltimore, Pontiac)

Dr. Jorge E. Calderon, Dean, Clinical Sciences

Dr. Victor Hrehorovich, Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean, AUA

Office: 212 661-8899 ext. 119

C. Psychological Support

The aforementioned faculty is available to provide psychological support and make referrals to specialists.