

Course Information

Title: Topics in Cancer Prevention
Course number: GS21 1622
Credits: 2-credit hours
Grade scale: Pass/Fail

Prerequisites: None required
Semester: Spring 2021
Day & Time: Thursdays, Noon to 2:00pm
Course Dates: January 14 – April 29, 2021

Course Coordinators & Office Hours

Shine Chang, PhD
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Instructor Office Hours:
By appointment only.

Please contact Lotis Batan to
request a meeting.

Course Objectives

Given the projected shortage of medical oncologists to care for cancer patients and survivors, the need for cancer prevention and control is urgent. Research and discovery of new and improved strategies for preventing cancer will be discussed, as well as the application of proven cancer prevention strategies in the clinic and community, and the ethical implications surrounding all of these efforts in cancer prevention and control.

Course objectives: (a) students will describe conceptual models used for cancer prevention research and practice, (b) students will identify the principal approaches used in areas of promising research in cancer prevention, both topical and methodological, (c) students will give examples of applications of cancer prevention research and practice, and (d) students will discuss the research and implementation challenges for future cancer prevention and control activities. The course will provide a foundation in cancer prevention and control for future basic, behavioral, and population science investigators. The course will be taught by a team of MD Anderson faculty from various basic science, population science, and clinical disciplines. Our **target audience** are those interested in cancer prevention and addiction research who are in a master's or Ph.D. programs, clinical students, or postdoctoral trainees.

Team Learning Activity

Students will be assigned to interdisciplinary teams for learning activities that further explore cancer prevention science. The second hour of class will be used for these activities, which will focus on developing a team proposal for a Cancer Prevention grant application. This activity will challenge students to propose a multidisciplinary program that would represent a "giant leap" in cancer prevention. Each team will develop specific aims for a proposal and present their proposal in class for peer review and competitive scoring.

Attendance, Grading Criteria & Make-up Classes

- **Students must sign in on the attendance sheet at each class.** Course instructors require advance notification of any absence planned or otherwise. Because the classes are recorded, no absences will be excused.
- The course is offered **pass/fail**, and a passing grade is earned based on active participation and attendance. Students will be considered to have passed the course if they have not missed any or if they have made up **all** missed class periods.
- Students must **make up** each missed class period by watching a recorded TechSmith Relay PowerPoint of the lecture and **creating and answering three questions** suitable for inclusion in an instructional assessment to demonstrate their understanding of the lecture. Submit questions and answers on the "Missed Class" form by email for review and approval within two weeks of missed classes.

- Recorded classes will be available after each class in the Box. Failure to submit completed form within two weeks of lecture will result in a grade of “Incomplete.” Students will be responsible for communicating with teammates to complete their contributions to the team activity for the missed class period.

Course Materials

- All registered students will be invited to the box folder at <https://mdacc.box.com/v/Topics> and must confirm access to this folder prior to the start of class.
- Students are responsible for retrieving and reviewing all class materials on **Box** prior to the start of class.

Course Locations

- The classes will be held on line until conditions allow for in person meeting. For virtual classes, student should have access to working camera and audio. Students will receive an invitation via MS Outlook to each class. **Room changes will be communicated via calendar update, email and text message.**

DATE	TOPIC/SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC/SPEAKER
1/14/2021 Zoom	"Principles of Cancer Prevention" <i>Ernest Hawk, M.D., MPH</i>	3/11/2021 Zoom	"Financial Toxicity of cancer – research and interventions" <i>Grace Smith, MD, MPH</i>
	Activity: Orientation to course, discuss syllabus, student speaker intros & class discussion facilitation, procedures for missed assignments, introduce team project & assign teams.		"Cancer Survivorship Research" <i>Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD</i>
1/21/2021 Zoom	"Why Cancer Prevention is a Hard Sell and Why Cancer Prevention Needs You" <i>Shine Chang, Ph.D.</i>	3/18/2021 Zoom	SPRING BREAK No Class (March 15-29, 2021)
	Activity: Describe secret superpowers, timelines; Hand out RFA; Discuss aims development process; breakout rooms for discussions about individual interests, discipline training, and areas of shared interest. Turn in draft gap in knowledge.		
1/28/2021 Zoom	"Cancer Epidemiology" <i>Austin Brown, PhD, BCM</i>	3/25/2021 Zoom	"Cancer prevention and early detection in low-resource settings" <i>Surendranath S. Shastri M.B.B.S; MD; DPh</i>
	"Cancer Screening" <i>Jane Montealegre, Ph.D., BCM</i>		Activity: Team Work Day
2/04/2021 Zoom	"General Principles of Genomics and Cancer Prevention" <i>Michelle Hildebrandt, Ph.D.</i>	4/01/2021 Zoom	"Be Well Communities initiative" <i>Ruth Rechis, PhD</i>
	Activity: How to write Specific Aims (handout). Group discussion & dissection of example aims. Use NIH REPORTER to find funded awards in areas of interest; Teams continue work on Specific Aims. Finalize gap in knowledge and turn in.		Activity: Turn in draft of presentation slides.
2/11/2021 Zoom	"Behavioral Theory and Interventions" <i>Lisa T Wigfall, PhD.</i>	4/08/2021 Zoom	PROJECT CHECK-IN WORK DAY
	Activity: Team work session. Complete draft of specific aims and turn in by end of class.		Activity: Updated slides due at start of class for Gallery Walk, peer questions.
2/18/2021 Zoom	"Health Disparities in Cancer & Cancer Prevention" <i>Larkin Strong, Ph.D., MPH</i>	4/15/2021 Zoom	"Skin Cancer Epidemiology: Beyond Melanoma" <i>Mackenzie R Wehner, MD, MPhil</i>
	Activity: Introduction of the end-of-course presentation – sections to include. Instructors provide written feedback on Specific Aims and debrief with teams. Teams revise & begin to plan other. Submit revised Specific Aims by end of hour. Secret super power break out chats. Team work session. Finalize and submit Specific Aims by end of class.		Activity: Secret super power break out chats. Updated slides due at start of class for Gallery Walk, peer questions.
2/25/2021 Zoom	"Chemoprevention and Clinical Cancer Prevention research" <i>Eduardo Vilar Sanchez, M.D., Ph.D.</i>	4/22/2021 Zoom	"Survivorship and Quality of Life" <i>Qian Lu, Ph.D.</i>
	Activity: Secret super power break out chats. Team work session.		Activity: Team rehearsal of presentations.
3/04/2021 Zoom	"Shared Risk Factors and Intervention Strategies to Prevent both Cancer and Heart Disease" <i>Susan Gilchrist, MD</i>	4/29/2021 Zoom	FINAL PRESENTATIONS, DEBRIEF AND EVALUATION Team Awards
	"Reducing cancer disparities, one step at a time" <i>Scherezade Kelly Mama, DrPh</i>		

