PSYCH 9001-07: Medical Decision Making  
Fall 2013 MW 3:30-4:45pm  
40A Arts & Science Building

**COURSE INFORMATION**
Instructor: Victoria Shaffer, PhD  
Office: 538 Clark Hall & 101 Noyes Hall  
Office hours: By appointment  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
The goal of this course is to provide a graduate level overview of research in medical decision making covering both methodological and theoretical topics along with primary research articles. Within this field, we will focus the applications of decision psychology and behavioral economics to health.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**
Performance in this class will be based upon contributions to the class discussion, presentations, and a final paper.

Class participation: 30% of grade  
The format of this class will largely be discussion which, to be successful, necessitates regular, sustained input from the class. It is expected that each of you will read the assigned articles in preparation for class and arrive with several prepared discussion points. Additionally, each student will take turns leading discussion throughout the semester. Attendance is expected and required. Unexcused absences will lower your final grade by half a letter grade, and students missing more than a week of class will be asked to drop the course.

Presentations: 30% of grade  
There will be two presentations during the semester, one informal (10%) and one formal (20%). The large end product of this class will be a research proposal. The two presentations will be opportunities to get feedback on the proposal and share the final product. The informal presentations will occur during Week 7. During the informal presentation, students should present a rough draft of their research idea. This should include details about proposed methodology. The formal presentations will occur during Week 16 (the last week of class). These presentations should include a summary of your paper (lit review, methods, predicted results, some conclusions).

Paper: Due on December 12th (40% of the grade)  
This paper should be a research proposal on a relevant topic. It should be 10-15 pages in length (excluding title page, abstract, and references) with 5-10 pages of literature review and 5-10 pages describing the proposed research. The paper should include a proposed methods section and expected results and discussion sections. For this proposal, imagine that you have unlimited funds. Feel free to choose some important topic within your own field. What I would not want to read is some minor modification of research you have already done.
ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (http://osrr.missouri.edu/); or the MU Equity Office (http://equity.missouri.edu/), or by email at equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The University of Missouri System is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action institution and is nondiscriminatory relative to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. Any person having inquiries concerning the University of Missouri’s compliance with implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, or other civil rights laws should contact the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Human Resource Services, University of Missouri-Columbia, 130 Heinkel Building, Columbia, Mo. 65211, 573/882-4256, or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The University of Missouri complies with the guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services (http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.
PSYCH 9001-07 Course Readings

WEEK 1 AUGUST 25TH AND 27TH
BIASES IN MEDICAL DECISION MAKING


WEEK 2 SEPTEMBER 1ST AND 3RD (NO CLASS 9/1)
HEURISTICS


WEEK 3 SEPTEMBER 8TH AND 10TH
PROBABILISTIC REASONING


WEEK 4 SEPTEMBER 15TH AND 17TH
EXPERTISE


**WEEK 5  SEPTEMBER 22\textsuperscript{ND} AND 24\textsuperscript{TH}**

**DEBIASING**


**WEEK 6  SEPTEMBER 29\textsuperscript{TH} AND OCTOBER 1\textsuperscript{ST}**

**MEMORY & NUMERACY**


**WEEK 7  OCTOBER 6\textsuperscript{TH} AND 8\textsuperscript{TH}**

**AFFECT & AFFECTIVE FORECASTING**


**Week 9 October 20th and 22nd**

- Annual meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making
- NO CLASS this week

**Week 10 October 27th and 29th**


**Week 11 November 3rd and 5th**


**WEEK 12 NOVEMBER 10th AND 12th**

**RISK COMMUNICATION & PATIENT NARRATIVES**


**WEEK 13 NOVEMBER 17th AND 20th**

**PREFERENCES & VALUES**


**WEEK 14 NOVEMBER 24TH AND 26TH**

- Annual meeting of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making
- THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS

**WEEK 15 DECEMBER 1ST AND 3RD**

**THE ONES I COULDN’T LEAVE OUT**


Other topics to consider: The rule of rescue and the identifiable victim effect

**WEEK 16 DECEMBER 8TH AND 10TH**

Presentations

**WEEK 17 FINALS WEEK**