



# *The Physician*

*Avicenna and the Canon of Medicine*

Honors IDH2930-3149 II Wednesday Period 9 (4:05pm) @ [Little Hall 119](#) II Spring 2025

## Course Description and Objectives

This is an Honors Reading Course. It transcends the traditional boundaries of area-studies, humanities, stem sciences, and medicine by offering a closed reading of the Canon of Medicine by Avicenna (980-1037), a polymath and founding figure in several multiple disciplines including medicine, theology, and logic. The course addresses the holistic and specific dimensions of medicine – traditional medicine, spirit and body, humors, temperaments, and the concept of diseases and healing.

In this seminar, you will identify and reimagine specific threads revolving around Avicenna's canon. We will critically discuss this book in efforts to:

1. Evaluate the interaction of theoretical and practical medicine (ways Avicenna relates theoretical knowledge to clinical practice by applying empirical observation and rational analysis),
2. Understand the humoral theory (in comparison to our biochemical and physiological knowledge), and,
3. Reconsider Avicenna's legacy and relevance to modern medicine (esp. the principles of prevention, individualized medicine, and holistic care in integrative and allopathic medicine).

At the end of the course, you can expect to have achieved the following outcomes in content, analysis, and critical thinking:

1. **Content:** Demonstrate working knowledge and competence in the history, contours, and discourses in Avicenna's tradition.
2. **Analysis:** Analyze medical ideas, observations, and results in the Canon of Medicine.
3. **Critical Thinking:** Produce nuanced perspectives by way of developing context-based interpretations of medicine.

## Basic Course Communication Information

Instructor

[Emrah Sahin, Ph.D.](#)

[emrahsahin@ufl.edu](mailto:emrahsahin@ufl.edu)

[Turlington Hall # 3326B](#)

Phone (352) 294-7143

Office hours: TBA and by appointment  
Sign [here at calendly](#) for af2f or [zoom](#) meeting

## Office Hours and Communication

Office hours are tba... Please sign up for a meeting in advance [here at calendly](#) for an in person, virtual, or additional appointment. Students are also welcome to contact the instructor [by email](#). For virtual office hours, the link is here ([zoom room](#); id 943 8605 6195).

## Required Materials and Supplies Fees

The course has no prerequisites. The assignments are a closed reading and engaged classroom discussion of sections in *the Cannon of Medicine* (the 2013 translation provided on the canvas page as e-book), short contributions to a weekly blog to be created by the professor on the course website, and a critical review of another book related to the larger subject matter of the course. See additional readings, recommended materials, and updates on the e-learning website.

## Grading Policies and Grade Scale

This course includes the following assignments along with weekly discussion meetings. Be willing, engaged, and punctual – that is, *attend* and participate in discussions and *complete* your reading assignments on time.

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

**Grading in this course takes place within the following parameters.**

- Student work will be graded based on quality and within the point range given below. There will be no curving practices; extra credit may be available for those interested.
  - Grading in this class is consistent with UF policies available [here](#).
- Assignment Values:
  - Attendance (5/100 points). Attendance will be recorded during meetings and students are expected to attend all the classes except in the case of an emergency.
  - Participation and blog entries (25/100 and 15/100 points). Students will participate in the meetings and write blog texts. Further information will be given during the first meeting in class.
  - Book review (15/100 points). By Week 8, students will submit a 4-page abstract on another third-world literature piece of their choice with the approval of the professor.

- Take-home Final (40/100 points). The final examination will draw from lectures and select readings, and will be due on the last meeting of class. A review class will provide guidelines and address questions about this exam.
- Please note that all assignments must be completed by the date indicated on the syllabus and will not be rescheduled, or, accepted late. Requests of any special accommodations must be made to the instructor in writing and in advance. Feel free to discuss any of your requirements or assignments with your professor.  
*Additionally, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed during the course of the semester. As much advance warning as possible will be provided to students. Changes can be made to the schedule, assigned reading or other aspects as deemed necessary. No changes will be made to grading scale or core UF policies as noted above.*
- Policy on Late and Make-up Work: Students should contact the instructor for late and make-up work. In case of emergency, instructor must be notified as soon as possible.
- Grade Return Timing: Instructor will evaluate assigned work in a timely manner; likewise, students can expect to receive grades on mid-term within 10 days and final examination in one week.
- Point Range for this Class is as follows.

### Grading Policy

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Numerical Value (% rank)	+94	90 93	87 89	84 86	80 83	77 79	74 76	70 73	67 69	64 66	60 63	-60
GPA Equivalent	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### UF Policies Shaping This Course

**This course is aligned with the UF policies below.**

- Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519  
Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email [advisor@honors.ufl.edu](mailto:advisor@honors.ufl.edu)  
Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>
- Contact Hours: "Contact Hours" refers to the hours per week in which students are in contact with the instructor, excluding office hours or other voluntary contact. The number of contact hours in this course equals the number of credits the course offers.
- Workload: As a Carnegie I research-intensive university, UF is required by federal law to assign at least 2 hours of work outside of class for every contact hour. Work done in these hours may include reading/viewing assigned material and doing explicitly assigned

individual or group work, as well as reviewing notes from class, synthesizing information in advance of exams or papers, and other self-determined study tasks.

- Accommodation for Student with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. This class supports the needs of different learners; it is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.
- Statement Regarding Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available from [the Gatorevals website](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from Gator Evals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [the evaluation system](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [the public results website](#).

## Additional Course Policies and Information

**The following are additional policies that shape the administration of this course.**

### Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Attendance and participation are required for success. They not only constitute a position of your grade. Repeated absences also affect your overall performance. Missing class likewise means missing participation and falling behind in other assignments.

According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

For further information about the University of Florida’s attendance policy, please see [the current Undergraduate Catalogue](#)

### University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

### Class Demeanor

Students are expected to join class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating during meetings. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

### In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations [here](#). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three

weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students [here](#).

## **Additional UF Policies and Resources**

### **Safety and Society**

**Dean of Students Office** [Dean of Students Office](#) (352-392-1261) provides a variety of services to students and families, including [Field and Fork](#) (UF's food pantry) and [New Student and Family programs](#)

**Multicultural and Diversity Affairs** [Multicultural and Diversity Affairs](#) (352-294-7850) celebrates and empowers diverse communities and advocates for an inclusive campus.

**Office of Student Veteran Services** [Office of Student Veteran Services](#) (352-294-2948 | [vacounselor@ufl.edu](mailto:vacounselor@ufl.edu)) assists student military veterans with access to benefits.

**University Police** The UF police are together for a safe campus. 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies) <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

**Counseling and Wellness Center** [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) (352-392-1575) provides counseling and support as well as crisis and wellness services including a [variety of workshops](#) throughout the semester (e.g., Yappy Hour, Relaxation and Resilience).

**Disability Resource Center** [Disability Resource Center](#) ([DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu) | 352-392-8565) helps to provide an accessible learning environment for all by providing support services and facilitating accommodations, which may vary from course to course. Once registered with DRC, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

**U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

**UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

### **Academic/Professional**

**Career Connections Center** [Career Connections Center](#) (352-392-1601 | [CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu)) connects job seekers with employers and offers guidance to enrich your collegiate experience and prepare you for life after graduation.

**Official Sources of Rules and Regulations:** The official source of rules and regulations for UF students is the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) and [Graduate Catalog](#). Quick links to other information have also been provided below.

- [Student Handbook](#)
- [Student Responsibilities](#), including academic honesty and student conduct code
- [e-Learning Supported Services Policies](#) includes links to relevant policies including Acceptable Use, Privacy, and many more
- [Accessibility](#), including the Electronic Information Technology Accessibility Policy and ADA Compliance
- [Student Computing Requirements](#), including minimum and recommended technology requirements and competencies

**ONE.UF** [ONE.UF](#) is the home of all the student self-service applications, including access to:

- [Advising](#)
- [Bursar](#) (352-392-0181)
- [Financial Aid](#) (352-392-1275)
- [Registrar](#) (352-392-1374)

## Learning and Technology

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

Course schedule follows on the next page.

# COURSE SCHEDULE

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COM (*THE CANNON OF MEDICINE*), CH. (CHAPTER NAME)

## Week 1: Introduction

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- January 15 - Course mechanics and seminar launch
  - Introduction to the course and content
  - COM, “Why Revisit a Thousand-Year Old Book?”

## W 2-7: First Art: “Definition of Medicine and Its Topics”

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- January 22 - Com, “Introduction: Why Revisit...”
- January 29 - Com, “Concepts of Unani Medicine” and “Topics of Medicine”  
[*Blog discussions start this week*]
- February 5 - Com, “The Unani Elements”
- February 12 - Com, “The Theory of Temperaments,”
- February 19 - Com, “The Humors” [*Book-review project kick-off*]
- February 26 - Com, “The Organs According to Avicenna” and “A General View of the Faculties and Actions”

## W 8-9: “Disease, Causes, and General Symptoms”

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- March 5 - Com, “Diseases” and “Causes”
- March 12 - Com, “Symptoms and Signs” [*Book-review presentations and submission*]

## W 10-15: “Health, Disease, and the Necessity of Death”

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- March 26 - Com, “Introduction to the Third Art” and “Raising Children”
- April 2 - Com, “Common Regimen of Adults” and “Health Management of the Elderly”



- April 9 - Com, “Management of the Dystempered Body” and “Transitions, Seasonal Management, and Travelers”
- April 16 - Com, “Fourth Art: Aspects of Treatments according to General Diseases” [*Take-home instructions released; exam due in 7 days*]
- April 23 - Final remarks and submissions