Introduction: *BI 358 Investigations in Medical Physiology* is an upper division lecture, discussion/laboratory course that is ideal for seniors and juniors with aspirations for careers in medicine. It is designed to bridge the gap between textbook knowledge from Guyton & Hall *Textbook of Medical Physiology* and practical applications in clinical medicine and research. Basic and applied physiology lectures are followed by presentations by experts in medicine and research. The primary approaches we will use to explore medical physiology are descriptive (what and where), correlational (relationship between two or more variables) and mechanistic (how, sequence of cause-and-effect steps). Occasionally, we will use a purpose-driven (why or teleological) approach to help us remember or associate key concepts. Topic coverage includes homeostasis and homeostatic models; the nervous system, neurotransmitters and addiction medicine; immunology, allergies and asthma; cardiovascular physiology and clinical cardiology; digestive physiology and nutrition; endocrinology, reproductive physiology and infertility; gynecologic oncology; neonatology and development, pediatrics and pediatric orthopedics; and visual physiology and clinical ophthalmology.

*Physiology*, the study or science of function in living matter, is a wonderfully broad and demanding field that encompass many disciplines including anatomy, animal physiology, biochemistry, cell biology, environmental and exercise physiology, histology, immunology, mathematics, medicine, molecular biology, nutrition, pathophysiology (the study of diseases), physics, and systems physiology! The specific focus of study varies based on the adjective placed in front of the word *physiology*. For example, the goal of *comparative* physiology is to contrast functions across the animal kingdom. *Exercise* physiology studies adaptations to unique modes of exercise, primarily in humans. *Environmental* physiology investigates specific adaptations due to environmental stressors like high vs. low altitudes and cold vs. hot climates. *Viral* physiology or virology examines mechanisms in viruses, infectious, microscopic, genetic material in a protein coat, found in almost all ecosystems on earth. *Medical* physiology focuses on the study of function with specific applications to medicine. Certainly, there is much overlap among subdisciplines. Though we will discuss examples from many areas of medical physiology, our primary focus will be to study humans at a variety of levels of organization – 1st under normal and healthy baseline conditions prior to examining pathology, that is, how diseases disrupt homeostatic balances. Whatever your plans in medicine or allied health, ultimately, my hope is that you enhance your appreciation and understanding of the intricate and miraculous nature of the human body and that you apply what you have learned in this course throughout the rest of your life!

**Prerequisites & Applications:** The prerequisites for BI 358 are General Biology IV: *BI 214 Mechanisms* or Honors Biology III: *BI 283H Evolution, Diversity & Ecology* or *HPHY 324 Human Physiology II*. These prerequisites imply that you have completed a lower division Biology sequence required for the Biology, Human Physiology or General Science major. A background in Human Anatomy & Physiology is preferred because this will ensure that previously you have studied at the descriptive level (what and where) and have established the vocabulary of the
structures needed to study specific functions. BI 358 is an *Area II Systems/Organisms* course and can be applied toward the 44-cr of upper division courses required for the Biology major and may be applied toward the 16-cr of upper division electives required for the Human Physiology major.

**Learning outcomes:** By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- construct homeostatic models to solve problems at multiple levels of organization in applied physiology, medicine and research and demonstrate this ability on weekly quizzes.
- engage in peer-review of outlines, paper drafts and presentations, and provide feedback on guest speakers.
- examine, analyze and summarize research in a personal area of interest in medical physiology.
- develop and formalize an outline, review paper and class presentation and assist in grading these with instructors and peers.
- enhance scientific writing and presentation skills based on extensive evaluation and instructor and peer feedback.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- describe the concept of homeostasis and identify key categories of variables balanced within the extracellular fluid compartment.
- apply a simplified homeostatic model to the regulation of unique input variables that ensure that body systems maintain homeostasis leading to cell survival.
- explain the concept of feedback gain and provide examples of negative and positive feedback.
- identify the specific components of a simplified homeostatic model that are disrupted in common human pathologies like cardiovascular diseases and diabetes mellitus.
- compare and contrast parasympathetic and sympathetic neurotransmitters, receptors, actions, and rest-and-digest vs. fight-or-flight states.
- discuss how common drugs of addiction impact primary neurotransmitters, synapses, body organs and systems.
- describe the physiology and inherent multi-organ risks of cigarette smoking and vaping.
- identify structures and functions of the gastrointestinal system and describe steps involved in digestion and absorption.
- describe the role nutrition plays in disease prevention and compare and contrast plant- vs. animal-based diets.
- identify the common characteristics of the world’s longest lived people in *Blue Zones*.
- describe the relationship of trimethyl amine oxide (TMAO) and N-glycolylneuraminic acid (neu5Gc) in the development of inflammation and chronic human diseases.
- analyze the nutrient content of your personal diet relative to national guidelines and make recommendations for self-improvement.
- identify components of blood and the function of red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets; compare and contrast plasma vs. serum.
- define and calculate hematocrit, evaluate blood glucose and classify normal and abnormal ranges.
describe the steps involved in a white blood cell differential count and identify the general structure, function and % of individual white blood cells.

compare and contrast innate vs. adaptive immunity.

provide an overview of clinical immunology and treatments involved in allergies.

identify components of the cardiovascular and lymphatic systems and describe fluid flow and structural and functional relationships between these systems.

illustrate the coronary circulation, describe phases of the cardiac cycle and normal and abnormal heart sounds.

define blood pressure, hypertension and new national and international guidelines for assessment.

explain theories involved in the development of atherosclerosis, general atherosclerotic risk factors, the treatment triad and guidelines for prevention.

discuss the cardiology surgical procedures percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) and transaortic valve replacement (TAVR).

identify the structure and function of organs in the endocrine system.

illustrate the vascular connection between the hypothalamus and anterior pituitary and the nervous connection between the hypothalamus and posterior pituitary.

identify hypothalamic release- and release-inhibiting hormones and anterior pituitary hormones together with normal and abnormal feedback mechanisms.

describe female and male reproductive anatomy and physiology along with hormonal feedback mechanisms.

define reproduction number R₀, discuss the spike protein and mRNA vaccines and implications relative to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

explain the relationship between human papilloma viruses (HPV) and cancer development.

discuss assisted reproductive technologies (ART) and the identification and treatment of couples with infertility.

describe the features of polycystic ovary disease.

explain basic fetal and neonatal physiology, fetal blood flow, vital signs and development.

identify of common pediatric diseases and a general systems plan for diagnoses and treatments.

classify congenital hand differences and potential orthopedic treatments.

describe the structure and function of the eye and the general physics of myopia, hyperopia and presbyopia.

discuss cataracts and glaucoma and ophthalmology treatments including phacoemulsification and shunt surgeries used to reduce intra-ocular pressure.

Texts & References:

Lecture:

Lab:


The Discussion/Laboratory-Lecture Notebook contains all of the background for discussions and labs and slides from prior guest lectures. It is usually for sale at the U of O Duck Store (Bookstore) for ~10 US dollars, but for this term, it is free because I am posting this for you directly on Canvas.

Additional Lecture & Lab Resources:


https://nutritionfacts.org/, https://www.cspinet.org/eating-healthy
https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/
https://www.berkeleywellness.com/healthy-eating/nutrition
https://www.nutrition.gov/, https://www.eatright.org
https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/educational/wecan/tools-resources/nutrition.htm

+If you have access to the U of O campus, you may be able to check out supplemental reserve texts and resources in the Price Science Commons Library. See the web listing: http://libweb.uoregon.edu/. Click on the Course Reserves tab, then sign in with U of O ID and password & type in BI 358.

Requirements:

- Review the Active Learning Questions and Lecture .pdfs prior to attending online Lecture Discussions. These will be posted by the weekend prior to lectures. For some lectures, but likely not guest lectures, .mp4s also may be available. So that we are able to engage at least partly in a reverse classroom configuration, it is crucial that you review Active Learning Questions and .pdfs prior to attending our online lecture-discussions. The answers to the Active Learning Questions are within the .pdfs and .mp4s and are not found in many cases by cruising the internet. Examine Guyton & Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology and other course materials 1st prior to doing internet searches reflexively. If you do conduct internet searches, rely upon more accurate and reliable sites with .edu, .org, .gov. There are a few exceptions to this rule, for example, UC Berkeley Wellness is financially separate from
UC Berkeley and thus is a .com rather than an .edu. In contrast, the Westin A. Price Foundation is an .org, yet is not peer-reviewed, but these are two rare exceptions to the .edu, .org, .gov guideline to ensure accuracy.

- **Review the Discussion/Lab Background material and .pdfs and any Lab Worksheets prior to attending online Lab Discussions.** Again, so that we are able to take at least partial advantage of a reverse classroom design, it is crucial that you review at least background material and .pdfs prior to coming to our online lab discussions. The Blood Chemistry Lab requires a moderately extensive write-up, while the Nutrition Lab involves the most analyses and question responses with guidelines posted for both labs on Canvas. Again, as with the lecture seek course materials 1st prior to conducting internet searches reflexively. Our live, in-person discussions/labs are scheduled for 100 min, but if online they are reduced to 90 min.

- **Read, take notes and study** the pages listed from your textbook and other resources listed on your course outline prior to the Lecture-Discussions and Lab-Discussions. Again, this will help foster discussion and facilitate a reverse classroom framework.

- Complete **Active Learning Questions** and submit by way of Canvas by 11:59:59 pm the night of the Lecture-Discussions.

- Complete **Lab Reports** for required labs and submit by way of Canvas by 11:59:59 pm as indicated on the course outline. For the Nutrition Lab you will have until the weekend to submit due to the more extensive nature of the write-up.

- Provide **Feedback on Guest Lectures** and submit by way of Canvas by 11:59:59 pm on the same day as the guest lecture.

- Provide **Feedback on Outlines & Paper Drafts for Peers** within your assigned presentation group.

- Create a **Research Paper** of 6 double-sided pages with 1 page of references (so a total of 7 pages) using distinct headers (Introduction…Directions for Future Research, Summary & Conclusions, References) and a variable-by-variable approach. Submit your research paper in .docx or .doc format both on Canvas and to lombardi@uoregon.edu by Monday at 5:00 pm during final exam week. More details will be posted on Canvas and described in your Lab/Discussion section.

- Create a **Presentation** of 5-7 slides (if .pptx) on a medical physiology research topic of your choice and submit .pdf on Canvas by Monday at 5:00 pm on the night before your scheduled presentation. Also, submit by way of e-mail a .pptx or .pdf (depending on the software you use) to lombardi@uoregon.edu and to your lab/discussion instructor by Monday at 5:00 pm on the night before your scheduled presentation. More details about the presentation will be posted on Canvas and described during your Lab/Discussion section.

- Provide **Comments & Score** all presentations except for your own by using a score sheet and scale provided. More details about the scoring will be posted on Canvas and described during your Lab/Discussion section.

- Complete six online **Canvas Quizzes** covering all Active Learning Q, Lectures, Discussions/Labs for the specific modules indicated on the Course Outline. Each Quiz will contain 10 Q (multi-modal, multiple choice…) and have a 20-min window to complete, sometime between 12 N and 11:59:59 pm US PDT on Fridays.
Accessible Education: If you have documented additional needs through our Accessible Education Center (AEC) https://aec.uoregon.edu/using-aec-connect, more time will be allotted for you to complete quizzes.

**Quiz Directions:** The quizzes are open book, but not open communication or conversation. You may use your textbook/s and lecture and lab notes, however, once you begin a quiz, you are not allowed to communicate with others, including classmates, family members or any humans (or telepathic animals!) by any communication means including by cell phone, texting, instant messaging, Zoom, e-mail or Morse code! You may not take pictures or use screen shots or snipping tools to capture quiz questions. You will pledge to ensure that your work is yours alone independently, and that you have not engaged in any communication, conversation or any dishonesty, plagiarism, preconceived scams, copying or revealing of quiz questions. I want you to know that 1st and foremost, I was raised to value and respect the utmost of integrity and that I hold you to the highest of possible standards! Even though you can use your notes, text/s and other materials, you should be able to answer questions without referring to these and the time allotment will not enable you to search and discover answers while you are taking a quiz. Once you start a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it, unless you have received additional time for AEC accommodations. Best of luck!

**Grading:**
The grading for the course is as follows:

- **25%** Attendance & Participation
- **5%** Feedback on Guest Lecturers & Peers
- **10%** Paper & Presentation
- **60%** Quizzes (10% for each of the 6 Quizzes)

100% Total

The individual breakdown is below and detailed directions will be provided on Canvas and in lecture & lab. Please ask if you have any questions.

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∑ = 100 Total
Absences & Make-ups: It is difficult based on the pace and organization of the course with guest lecturers to facilitate make-ups. Although we will try to post Zoom recordings of lectures and discussions online, there is simply nothing like being there. View it like a job that you get paid for when you show up! Also, think about the money you and/or your parents/sponsors have paid and time we have invested to organize and develop the course and schedule guest lecturers and labs. Reflect on a host devoting much time and care to creating hors d’oeuvres, entrees and drinks and then not having people show up. You can sense why the host might be upset if asked “Did I miss anything important?” The best we will probably be able to do is to provide you with ½ credit if you have a legitimate excuse related to University-sponsored travel, childcare, interview, illness, birth, death or gastrulation! ☺ Please send an e-mail to lombardi@uoregon.edu and cc: lab instructors that may be impacted by any absences. The further in advance we have notice, the more likely we may be able to accommodate your desires for a make-up.

Late Assignments: Assignments posted or received past the listed deadline may be docked 10% per day. Do your very best to get all assignments in on time. Remember, we have the highest of possible expectations. We should all strive to be the best possible versions of ourselves. This translates to doing the best we can to prepare, being on time and respectful and working and supporting others to the very best of our capabilities.

Organization: As mentioned previously, I would like to implement at least partly, a reverse classroom plan, where you review each Lecture .pdf online and attempt to complete Active Learning Questions on your own time, and then attend the Lecture-Discussion. Also, you review each Background for the Discussion/Lab .pdf at your leisure then attend the Lab-Discussion. Your efforts outside of the Lecture and Lab Discussions will make you well-prepared and enable all of us to engage in each topic at a deeper level and more fully interact and learn together. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information or resources. I am looking forward to learning together and having fun this term! :)