Interested in pursuing a health-related career? The types of health professions are numerous—as are the routes toward them and the ways your undergraduate experience can prime you for success. This course is designed to help you identify potential career aspirations and plan steps to achieve them. Guest speakers, readings, and class discussions allow you to explore a variety of health fields, network with current health professionals, reflect on your interests and values, and learn ways to stand out in a competitive field.

Learning Outcomes for this course:
- Ability to identify a large range of health care careers.
- Build research skills to continue your career exploration.
- Understand the different levels of education needed for each career.
- Start to understand the differing environments and patient foci.
- Identify personal values and goals.
- Identify how your career interests interface with values and goals.

Course Expectations
Attendance and Engagement
Because this course is structured as a seminar, it’s expected that you will make every effort to attend each class. Each student is allowed 1 absence (excused or unexcused). Additional absences will result in a grade of “N” (no pass). Please speak with me if you have any questions or concerns.

As a courtesy to our guest speakers, please do not use laptops during class. If aspects of the instructions or design of this course limit your participation or success, I encourage you to talk with me as soon as possible so that we can strategize how you can get the most out of this course. If you have a disability, you are also welcome to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

The use of cell phones during class both for texting and web browsing is strictly prohibited. If this becomes a problem I will ask you to leave and will award you an “N” (no pass) for the course.

Course Materials
Journal entries, class handouts, announcements, and additional resources appear on our Blackboard course site (go to http://blackboard.uoregon.edu and log on with your Duck ID and password).
Academic Integrity
All students are expected to complete assignments in a manner consistent with academic integrity. Students must produce their own work and properly acknowledge and document all sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases). Students can find more complete information about the University of Oregon’s Policy on Academic Dishonesty in the University of Oregon Student Handbook.

Assignments & Grading
Grading
You will be eligible for course credit if you do all of the following:
- Attend and participate appropriately in at least 9 of 10 class sessions.
- Complete all journal entries and assignments at a satisfactory level.
- Attend an individual conference.
- Meet every assignment deadline.
Please let me know if you have an extraordinary experience that you believe warrants an exception to these policies. Essentially, if you come to class, participate well, complete assignments fully, and meet deadlines you will pass this course.

Individual Conference
One individual scheduled conference with a Health Professions Advisor (myself, Jenni Van Wyk, or Megan Coble) is required to earn a P in this course. I encourage you to plan ahead and meet with one of us between weeks 4-9 so that we can discuss assignment 3. We are also happy to discuss your general interests, academic planning, or other questions you may have. Please scheduled an appointment in advance. To schedule an appointment call the Teaching & Learning Center at 541-346-3226. My weekly office hour is not a suitable time for this conference. More frequent visit are also encouraged.

Weekly Blackboard Journal
Each week you will complete a journal entry (submitted on Blackboard) that reflects and applies to the speaker from the previous week. In each journal please reflect on what surprised you, or what you learned from the presentations. Other questions to consider: Would this profession fit your personality? How does a practitioner in this profession interact with patients? Do you agree with the philosophy? Does the education necessary sound interesting? Each weekly response should be a paragraph in length (approx. 150 words).

In addition, please include two questions for each speaker (typically two) for the next week. When developing questions consider the following themes: work-life balance, education, certifications/licensure, continuing education, diversity of patients, patient interaction, changing healthcare policy. I will bring a comprehensive list of our questions to class to help develop our discussion. Due every Sunday by midnight via Blackboard.

Assignment 1: Research Health Professions Programs and Reflection
For this assignment, you will be expected to research TWO different health professions. For example, you could choose dentistry and pharmacy. Both programs can be offered at the same school/university, but they need to be separate programs. Make sure to include the name of the school, the program, and provide the website link. If you cannot find information regarding a particular question do not skip the question. Instead you can state that no information was listed regarding that particular question. Feel free to format your assignment in tables or lists if you prefer. Printing out the school’s program website is not acceptable. Please use your own words and write answers in complete sentences.
Please answer the following questions:
1. What are the required pre-requisite courses for admission to this program? Are there optional or highly recommended courses? If so, what are they?
2. Is there a required entrance exam? If so, what is the exam? What topics are tested?
3. Does the program require letters of recommendation? If so, how many and from whom?
4. Does this program utilize an application service? If so, which one?
5. What is the application timeline? When do you apply? When do you interview?
6. Do you need related field experience, and if so, what kind of experience is required?
7. Are there any additional requirements for admission to this program that are not included in the questions above?

Based on the information you found, write a one page response comparing the two professions. Also include how this information impacts which profession is the best fit for you. Did any requirement shock you? Do the requirements correspond with your major? How has researching this information changed your goals? This statement should be one-page typed double spaced with normal margins (approx. 500 words).

Due: April 23, 2014

Assignment 2: Health Professions & Graduate School Fair Reflection
The Health Professions & Graduate School Fair is on April 23rd from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the EMU Ballroom and each student is required to visit the fair. This is a great opportunity to ask specific questions to program representatives pertaining to your interests. Please attend the fair and write a brief (one paragraph – approx. 150 words) reflection based on a question you asked and the answer you received. In preparation for this, think back to assignment 1. What were some questions that the websites didn’t answer? What information would be helpful for you to know about the average applicant? For more information about the schools and programs attending the fair please visit the UO Career Center’s website at: www.career.uoregon.edu. If you cannot attend please see me and we can discuss an alternative assignment.

Due: May 7, 2014

Assignment 3: Vocational Reflection
Now that you’ve been exposed to a range of health professions, how do you decide which is the best fit for you? Based on the vocational reflection handout and class discussion, this assignment is to help you start to evaluate your personal values and goals and how they mesh with your health field interest. How do they align? If they conflict, how will you reconcile this? The goal of this assignment is to help you reflect and gain a better understanding of WHY medicine, dentistry, or other health profession. This self-reflection assignment will help you with future personal statement writing (approx. 500 words).

Due: June 4, 2014
| Week 1: April 2 | **Course Introduction** – Review of Syllabus & Introduction  
Dentistry  
Dr. Jossi Stokes (Dentist), Pearly Whites of Eugene |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 2: April 9 | **Allopathic (MD) and Osteopathic (DO) Medicine**  
Luke Rauch (Recruitment Officer, Western University of Health Sciences)  
Dr. Hans Notenboom (Emergency Medicine, River Bend Hospital) |
| Week 3: April 16 | **Dietetics and Podiatry**  
Ingrid Skoog (Registered Dietician, Oregon State University & UO Instructor)  
Dr. M. Dusty McCourt (Podiatrist, Eugene Foot & Ankle Health Center) |
| Week 4: April 23 | **Physician Assistant and Physical Therapy**  
Chelsea Sloanes (Physician Assistant, Eugene Urgent Care)  
Michael Baum (Physical Therapist, Oregon Neurosport Physical Therapy)  
**DUE: Assignment 1** |
| Week 5: April 30 | **Public Health and Nursing**  
Renee Mulligan MPH (Health Promotion Specialist, UO Health Center)  
Mary Alice Rodstrom (Nurse Practitioner, UO Health Center)  
Anne Mattson (Nurse Practitioner, UO Health Center)  
**DUE: Assignment 2** |
| Week 6: May 7 | **Pharmacy & Optometry Discussion**  
Gregg Wendland RPh (Pharmacist, UO Health Center)  
Daran deCalesta O.D. (Optometrist, Rainbow Optics)  
**DUE: Assignment 2** |
| Week 7: May 14 | **Naturopathic Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine**  
Caiden Marcus (Admissions Counselor, National College of Natural Medicine)  
Dr. Laurie Regan (Dean of Classical Chinese Medicine at NCNM)  
Dr. Leslie Fuller (Naturopathic Physician and faculty member at NCNM) |
| Week 8: May 21 | **Veterinary Medicine and Medical Laboratory Science**  
Gail Schroeder DMV (Veterinarian, Greenhill Humane Society)  
Rachelle Barrett (Medical Laboratory Science, Salem Hospital) |
| Week 9: May 28 | **Vocational Reflection & TBA** |
| Week 10: June 4 | **Study Abroad and Research Opportunities**  
Michelle Hyde-Wright (IE3 Study Abroad Advisor, University of Oregon)  
Joe Nathanson (UO IE3 student participant)  
**DUE: Assignment 3** |
| Week 11 | No Class or Final |