**Course Director** | Annette Greer, PhD, MSN  
**Location** | Online  
**Duration** | 2 weeks

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<th>Course Goal(s)</th>
<th>To enhance the ability of medical students/future physicians to appropriately address spiritual issues arising within patient care.</th>
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| **Specific Course Objectives** | Upon completion of this course learners will be able to:  
1. Describe how spiritual belief systems may have both positive and/or negative impacts on healing and health.  
2. Compare and contrast multiple belief systems as a part of cultural diversity, and explain how cultural differences may present in the health care setting.  
3. Assess how caregivers' attitudes towards patients' diverse spiritual and religious orientations have positive or negative impacts on provider-patient relationships and the healing process.  
4. Demonstrate when it is appropriate to take a spiritual history and include it in a patient’s record.  
5. Construct various techniques for taking a spiritual history.  
6. Summarize when chaplains and/or other religious advisors and/or members of the interprofessional care team should be consulted and utilized in patient care.  
7. Justify how spiritual belief systems may especially impact particular types of clinical care situations (e.g., addiction, end of life, chronic illness scenarios).  
8. Critically explore evidence-based research pertaining to spirituality and health care outcomes (discipline specific fields). |

| Course Requirements | 1. The course is graded on a pass-fail basis. All requirements must be met in order to pass the course.  
2. All course readings are found in the “Modules” folders in the course. Each Module will contain readings and assignment links to papers due.  
3. There is a blog for Module 1 and you click to access the linked page.  
4. There is a discussion board for each Module, use the Discussion Board Assignments Tab to access the case.  
5. There are FOUR Modules. The “Core Module” contains required reading that ALL students must complete. Each of the other three modules contain options selected by students relative to interest concentration (Ob & Peds, General & Pysch, or Surgery).  
6. The Final Exam in located in MODULE 4 and must be completed by ALL Students.  
7. **Reading Assignments** are as follows:  
   a. All students **must** read all of the articles posted in the “core articles” section of the Course Docs.  
   b. Students will read other articles that are interest specific; however, each student must read a minimum of **four** articles (no more than 2 per interest area) in addition to the core articles through interest selection.  
8. **Written assignments** are as follows: |

*Updated 1/2017 AG*
For each of the four selected specialty-specific papers, students will write a one page (single spaced) critical paper based on the article. The purpose of these commentaries is to give the student an opportunity to express general reactions/thoughts about topics raised in the article. For example, the paper can offer critique or agreement with an author’s point, as well as make new points related to the topic or demonstrate the applicability of an idea in the reading to medical practice. Do not simply restate or summarize the contents of the article; rather, be creative in stating your own reactions to the article.

Each week students will complete a case in the Discussion Board that presents a spiritual dilemma in clinical care and will engage in assessing the case, identification of the dilemma, and will formulate an evidence based response from the literature. When more than one student is enrolled in the course, the students will respond to each other’s’ plan of care with a minimum of 100 words. On week 4 you will have two cases and only choose one.

In addition to the one page papers listed above, each student will write a 2-4 page (single spaced) final paper that addresses the following question: “Based on what you have learned in your previous medical school experiences, and from the assigned readings in this elective course, discuss how you plan to address patients’ spiritual needs in your eventual independent practice of medicine”. You should cite at least five scholarly references in this paper (these may be taken from the assigned readings or from additional research reviews). Feel free to cite additional references in this paper should you desire to do so.

OPTIONAL: Students may elect to complete a systematic literature review using a matrix provided by the instructor. A minimum of 15 articles on the topic must be annotated and a manuscript produced of publishable quality.

The content areas covered by this course include:
- Impact of spiritual belief systems on healing and health;
- Diversity in cultural patient-centered care;
- Spiritual history and the professional medical role;
- Interprofessional holistic care, collaboration in the spiritual domain; and
- Translation of evidence-based spirituality research into practice to improve health care outcomes.

This course is based on 20 hours of contact time/effort by students.