

Seminar Description  
**FRES 1020/BIOL 3990**  
“Selected Topics from the Practice of Medicine”

Offered each Fall and Spring Semester (1 credit hour)

Lecture: Designated Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45 p.m. (Ten 75-minute sessions)  
Room 149, UGA Wilson College of Pharmacy Building

UGA Faculty:

- R. Alan Langford, M.D. (Premedical Studies & Microbiology)  
(Prior clinical practice in dermatology, internal medicine, & infectious diseases)
- David Eisner, M.D. (Cell Biology/Biology)  
(Prior clinical practice in anesthesiology and management of surgical patients)

Topics are selected for each term at the first class session with input from students registered for the class. The sessions are open to UGA students not enrolled, as these sessions are also used as the UGA “Premed Forum.” Topics in the past have included medical malpractice/tort reform, Alzheimer’s diseases, the medically underinsured populace in the U.S., human stem cells/cloning, missions of specific medical schools, obesity as a health risk, osteopathic medicine, alternative medicine, selected skin diseases, biomedical ethics, care of elderly patients, and surgical repair of defects generated by removal of large skin cancers. The topics should generate fervent discussion by students with faculty and visitors.

FRES 1020 students turn in required written short papers on each weekly topic making comments on an item with which each agreed (and why?) and one item with which disagreement exists (and why not?). (Due the next class session.)

BIOL 3990 students have the same requirement as the FRES 1020 students, PLUS “gathering,” summarizing, and submitting one journal article to support the comments generated on each topic.

The class is not intended to be difficult. The faculty do not wish these assignments to detract from a student’s studies in his/her main classes. A dependable interested student should find the seminar experience to be stimulating and worthwhile in preparing to apply one day to medical or similar schools. Of course, opinions generated by a student that differ from the faculty’s opinion result in no penalty. Many topics selected will generate questions not easily answered.

Class attendance and participation for the “full-time” of each session is required for each weekly session. Requests for excusing an absence must be presented to Dr. Langford (FRES 1020) or Dr. Eisner (BIOL 3990) in a timely and written fashion. An excused absence does not allow the non-submittal of each written homework assignment. Each assignment is graded on a “Pass-Fail” basis. Each late-submitted homework (or late-submitted absence explanation) results in deduction of a partial (1/3) letter grade. Each non-submitted assignment (or each unexcused absence) results in a deduction of one FULL “letter-grade.” Anyone whom registers for this class for more than one credit hour will be considered seriously for reporting to UGA administrators for an academic dishonesty violation.