

**Graduate School of Public Health
Department of Human Genetics
Cancer Genetic Counseling
HUGEN 2061
Tuesday 12:00-12:50PM
Location: A216 Public Health
Credit Hours: 1.0
Spring 2023**

Instructors and Contact Information

Course Director:

Andrea Durst, DrPH, MS, CGC (she/her)

Office: 3129 Public Health

Phone: 412-624-3190

Email: adurst@pitt.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2PM in 3140 Public Health or by appointment

Course Instructors:

Beth Dudley Yurkovich, MS, MPH, LCGC

Adjunct Instructor, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Email: dudleyre@upmc.edu

Phuong Mai, MD, MS

Associate Professor, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh

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Darcy Thull, MS, LCGC

Adjunct Instructor, Human Genetics, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Email: thuldl@upmc.edu

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills fundamental to the practice of cancer genetic counseling. The overall goal of the course is to allow students to apply cancer genetics knowledge to clinical situations. The course will cover hereditary cancer syndromes, cancer risk assessment models, and germline and somatic genomic testing.

Learning Objectives

After completion of this course, each student will be able to:

- (1) Identify the clinical features and management of hereditary cancer syndromes.
- (2) Calculate cancer genetic risks using a variety of risk assessment models.
- (3) Describe different genetic/genomic testing modalities used in clinical cancer genetic counseling.
- (4) Explain genetic/genomic test result interpretation and risk assessment/management.

Prerequisites

This course builds upon the knowledge and skills covered in HUGEN 2035 Principles of Genetic Counseling and HUGEN 2060 Chromosomes: Structure and Function. For this reason, these two courses are prerequisites to this course.

Required Texts

None. Readings are drawn from the current literature and classic texts on the course topics.

Optional Texts

Schneider KA (2012) *Counseling About Cancer*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell

Canvas Instructions

This class utilizes Canvas for class content. Notifications will be sent when course content is updated. Please make sure to set up your Canvas to receive email notifications from Canvas and please check for announcements and notifications on a regular basis.

Class Expectations/ Behavior and Ground Rules

This class will be held in-person according to University guidance. However, due to the shifting nature of the pandemic, it may be necessary to alter the delivery of the course. Any changes will be shared with students via announcements on Canvas. Given the pandemic, it is important that students abide by public health regulations and University of Pittsburgh health standards and guidelines. For the most up-to-date information and guidance, please visit <https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/>. If you are sick, please do not come to class in-person. Please email all course instructors, and we will determine the most appropriate make-up plan for class depending on the content.

We plan on recording synchronous classes to make them available on Canvas. We recognize that some guest lecturers may prefer to not be recorded and we will communicate this information during the semester. Recordings will only be available for the semester and should not be distributed for non-class purposes.

Student Performance Evaluation and Grading

Your grade for the course is based upon the grades you receive on the assignments, quizzes and cumulative final exam. The breakdown is as follows:

Tumor testing interpretation assignment – 50 points
Breast case-based assignment - 30 points
Colon case-based assignment - 30 points
Quizzes – 30 points
Cumulative final exam – 100 points

- Tumor testing interpretation assignment—For this project, you will be given the results from a somatic test ordered on a patient’s tumor and asked to assess the germline and treatment implications of the result for the patient. This assignment will be completed in groups. **This assignment will be made available on Canvas and should be emailed to Kelly Knickelbein (kelly.knickelbein@thermofisher.com) by the indicated due date.**
- Breast and Colon case-based assignments – These assignments will provide students the opportunity to apply the information learned during course lectures and interactive classes to work through breast and colon cancer cases that may be encountered in a genetic counseling clinical setting. These assignments will help prepare students for questions commonly asked during case conference during the cancer rotation.
- Quizzes – In order to help students pace studying over the course and to assess understanding of course material, there will be three quizzes over the course of the semester. The quizzes will be completed online on Canvas and will be open note. Quizzes will become available on Tuesdays after class for a 3 day window during which you may take the quiz once. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz once you start it. Lectures included on each quiz will be posted prior to the release of each quiz.
- Cumulative final exam—A final exam will be administered to assess your understanding of the material presented during the course.

Grading Scale

97-100%	A+
93-96%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
<60	F

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to adhere to the school’s standards of academic honesty. Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. The Graduate School of Public Health’s policy on academic integrity, which is based on the University policy, is available online in the Pitt Public Health Academic Handbook www.publichealth.pitt.edu/home/academics/academic-requirements. The policy includes obligations for faculty and students, procedures for adjudicating violations, and other critical information. Please take the time to read this policy.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 as early as possible in the term.

A comprehensive description of the services of that office can be obtained at www.drs.pitt.edu.

Sexual Misconduct, Required Reporting and Title IX Statement

The University is committed to combatting sexual misconduct. As a result, you should know that University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct, including harassment and sexual violence, to the University's Title IX office so that the victim may be provided appropriate resources and support options. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware.

There are two important exceptions to this requirement about which you should be aware:

A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here:

<https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix/make-report/report-form>

An important exception to the reporting requirement exists for academic work. Disclosures about sexual misconduct that are shared as part of an academic project, classroom discussion, or course assignment, are not required to be disclosed to the University's Title IX office.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct, Pitt encourages you to reach out to these resources:

Title IX Office: 412-648-7860

SHARE @ the University Counseling Center: 412-648-7930 (8:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. M-F) and 412-648-7856 (AFTER BUSINESS HOURS)

If you have a safety concern, please contact the University of Pittsburgh Police, 412-624-2121.

Other reporting information is available here: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix-compliance/make-report>

Diversity Statement:

Pitt Public Health Diversity Statement | Effective Academic Year 2021-22

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. Pitt Public Health is committed to creating and fostering inclusive learning environments that value human

dignity and equity and promote social justice. Every member of our community is expected to be respectful of the individual perspectives, experiences, behaviors, worldviews, and backgrounds of others. While intellectual disagreement may be constructive, no derogatory statements, or demeaning or discriminatory behavior will be permitted.

If you feel uncomfortable or would like to discuss a situation, please contact any of the following: the course director or course instructor;

- the Pitt Public Health Associate Dean responsible for diversity and inclusion;
- the University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 412-648-7860 or
- <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix/make-report/report-form>
(anonymous reporting form)

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Schedule of Sessions

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 10, 2023	Emily Callahan	Hereditary Breast, Ovarian and Prostate Cancer
January 17, 2023	Emily Callahan	Hereditary Breast, Ovarian and Prostate Cancer (cont).
January 24, 2023	Andrea Durst/ Darcy Thull	Cancer Risk Assessment and Risk Models
January 31, 2023	Dr. Phuong Mai	Breast Cancer Risk Management
February 7, 2023	Rachelle Huziak and TBD	Results Interpretation/Challenging Cases (Breast)
February 14, 2023	Dr. Emilia Diego	Breast Cancer Surgery
Breast Case-Based Assignment Due 2/14/2023 by 12pm		
Quiz 1: Posted 2/14/2023 Due 2/17/2023		
February 21, 2023	Amy Kunz	Hereditary Renal Syndromes

February 28, 2023	Kelly Knickelbein	Somatic Tumor Testing
March 7, 2023	SPRING BREAK	
March 14, 2023	Beth Yurkovich	Hereditary Gastrointestinal Syndromes
Somatic Tumor Testing Interpretation Assignment Due 3/14/2023		
March 21, 2023	Beth Yurkovich	Hereditary Gastrointestinal Syndromes (cont.)
March 28, 2023	Dr. Randall Brand	GI Procedures and Surgery
Quiz 2 Posted 3/28/2023 Due 3/31/2023		
April 4, 2023	Eve Karloski Kyla Morphy	Results Interpretation/Challenging Cases (colon)
April 11, 2023	Dr. Julia Meade	Bone Marrow Failure Hematologic Syndromes
Colon Case-Based Assignment Due 4/11/2023 by 12pm		
April 18, 2023	Dr. Helena Levitt	Hereditary Endocrine Tumor Syndromes
Quiz 3 Posted 4/18/2023 Due 4/21/2023		
April 25, 2023*		Final Exam ROOM CHANGE: A521 Public Health *This will be an extended class period to provide additional time for the final exam. The final exam is scheduled from 12-1:50PM.