

## Women's Health Enrichment Elective ENRH-135

### **Course Description:**

A comprehensive introduction to Women's Health, with an emphasis on topics that are not covered in the preclinical curriculum. This course is an enriching supplement to medical school education. It will empower future doctors in any specialty to consider female patients in the context of their unique body processes, and potentially catch symptoms of various health problems early. Weekly lectures will be given over a period of 15 weeks. Several discussions and external opportunities will be offered to enhance understanding and allow for more intimate discussions among the elective students. Experts in the fields under discussion will be our guest lecturers.

**Course Officers:** Ally Sun, Persephone Tian, Riya Albert

**Faculty Sponsor:** Dr. Jessica Shields

**Department:** Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Rationale:** Women face a unique set of health challenges in today's society. As medical students, we will all treat female patients at different stages of their lives. Therefore, it is imperative to have strong medical knowledge in the health issues that are unique to women. The traditional arc of medicine has generally minimized women's health issues and unique body processes. This class is intended to help counter that trend, and reinforce and improve pre-clinical students' knowledge of women's health concerns. The political climate in Texas is changing with regards to women's healthcare and healthcare support. Physicians need to be informed about the medical aspects of women's health in order to speak intelligently about today's issues if and when they are called upon to do so by patients, colleagues, and even the media. As evidenced in Texas Medical Association's (TMA) "Texas Medicine" magazine, which in November 2013 featured an article on Protecting Women's Health that was spotlighted on the cover, the safety net for women's health that was built over 40 years has been dismantled in just the past two years. This puts an additional burden on physicians to pick up the slack by focusing on these areas of medicine in their own practices.

**Objectives:** The primary objective of this course is to prepare physicians-in-training to make informed decisions regarding patients that experience health issues linked to any women's health-related topics. This goal means we will fill in any gaps we can find in the established curriculum concerning women's health that are not discussed in detail.

### **Requirements:**

Minimum participants for course to be conducted: 12

Maximum participants: None

## **Format**

### **Student Evaluation**

- Grades will be pass / fail.
- Attendance to 11/15 lectures is required to receive credit for the course.
  - Attendance will be taken via google forms distributed each session
- Students must complete course evaluation
- Students must submit a short, 1 page reflection at the end of the semester

### **Course Evaluation**

- There will be an online course evaluation form for students to complete for course credit.