



Course Information

Instructor Name: Reed Ferber
Phone Number: 403-210-6468
Email Address: rferber@ucalgary.ca
Office #: KNB 242
Office Hours: By Appointment

Classroom #: N/A
Day(s) Class Meets: May 1, 4, 5, May 8 – May 25
Time Class Meets: N/A
Course Website: D2L
Labs: N/A

Calendar Description

This Group Study Program (GSP) course will be an historical perspective on how illegal and unethical anatomy practices helped pave the way for advances in modern medicine. This course will embody the scientific, sociocultural, bioethical, and historical perspectives of a topic rarely discussed in the medical fields. We will discuss the intersection of religion, science, and art and how the influence of the Catholic Church pushed many renaissance artists and scientists towards the unethical practice of stealing bodies for the purpose of scientific advancement and artistic mastery.

Course Learning Outcomes

This GSP course will begin in Rome, Italy wherein we will first discuss the work of Galen, arguably the first “anatomist” and physician to Caesar and the gladiators of the Colosseum. We will visit historically relevant locations for 4 days. The group will then relocate to Bologna where we will spend 10 days with planned daytrips to Florence and Padua. We then return to Rome for the final 3 days to continue visits to historically relevant locations. Before we depart for Italy, 2 classes will be held to provide an overview of the history of the practice of unethical anatomical dissection led to many medical discoveries as well as 1 session to help students get to know one another.

The overall course is intended to provide students with the ability to:

1. Demonstrate self-confidence toward cultural experiences and interacting with people from another culture who hold different interests, values, or perspectives.
2. Feel comfortable having intellectual discussions about how the practice of unethical anatomical dissection led to many medical discoveries.
3. Demonstrate awareness of one's own cultural values and biases.
4. Confidently relate cultural experiences to their academic major(s).
5. Demonstrate a global mindset and appreciation for cultural differences.
6. Know the importance of understanding global perspectives.
7. Reflect on how a study abroad experience can broaden ways of thinking about other people, places, and things.

The Group Project objectives are to:

- Develop an effective strategy towards creating an imaginative and innovative solution to problems.
- Communicate concepts orally, visually and in writing with clarity and insight.
- Collaborate effectively when anticipating and overcoming challenges within a team setting.

Course Content

Pre-Departure Meetings:

May 1 – We will meet to discuss Italian renaissance and anatomical dissection. This meeting also serves as the pre-departure orientation with the group.

May 4 – The class will meet for a “speed-friending” session to get to know each other better.

May 5 – We will have a classroom discussion about the intersection between art and science.

May 8 – Departure from YYC to Rome, Italy (FCO Airport).

May 9 – Arrive in Rome

May 13 – Depart for Bologna via train

May 17 – Day-trip to Padua

May 20 – Day-trip to Florence

May 22 – Departure from Bologna for Rome

May 25 - Flight back to YYC.

Required Reading Materials

The main source of information and discussion will come from peer-reviewed scientific articles.

Recommended Reading Materials (Optional)

N/A

Assessment Components/Expectations

Grading Scale:

Letter	Percent	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96-100	4.00	Outstanding
A	92 -95	4.00	Excellent – Superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter
A-	88-91	3.70	
B+	83-87	3.30	
B	78-82	3.00	Good – Clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete
B-	73-77	2.70	
C+	68-72	2.30	
C	64-67	2.00	Satisfactory – Basic understanding of the subject matter. Grade point average below 2.00 is not sufficient for promotion
C-	60-63	1.70	Minimum grade required if needed as a prerequisite course
D+	55-59	1.30	
D	51-54	1.00	Minimal pass – Marginal performance, generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
F	≤50	0	Fail – Unsatisfactory performance of failure to meet course requirements

Evaluation of Course Content

Pre-departure assignment #1	10%	Assigned reading and development of Opinion Paper #1 (Due May 19)
Pre-departure assignment #2	10%	Assigned reading and development of Opinion Paper #2 (Due May 21)
Group activities during the tour	30%	Participation in discussion and group work
Group presentation	40%	Due June 26, 2026
Participation	10%	

Purpose of the Final Group Project

A group project allows for teamwork in class and the opportunity for students to complete a project that goes beyond that which one could do individually. The project is also designed to include tasks and activities from the course that are relevant to unethical anatomy practices and how these practices led to advancements in modern medicine. Overall, the project is meant to broaden your exposure to different ideas and develop and extend interpersonal and social skills.

Final Product: Each group will provide a 10-12 minute presentation, which is approximately 3-4 minutes for each individual to present as part of the overall group presentation.

Teams: Student groups will consist of 3-4 people and you are free to select your own group members. Once a group has formed, the group must decide on a topic for the project (**Due date: May 22, 2026**).

Midterm Exam Policy

The Faculty of Kinesiology policy is that all students are expected to write midterm exams on the dates listed on the course outline. Special accommodation may be granted by the instructor in **exceptional circumstances only**, which includes illness, participation in athletic events (varsity, national, or international), domestic affliction, and religious conviction. Personal travel plans and arrangements **are not** valid reasons for requesting a special accommodation for a midterm exam. Wherever possible, it is the student's responsibility to discuss absences with instructors **prior to** the

originally scheduled midterm. Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request: See university [calendar M.1.](#) for further information on supporting documentation.

Final Exam

There is no final exam.

Students who must miss a Registrar-scheduled final exam due to extenuating circumstances may apply for a deferred final exam. A Deferred Final Exam request **must** be submitted following the [University's application procedure](#).

Late Policy

It is the student's responsibility to supply proper documentation and/or notification prior to the scheduled Group Project presentation deadline and/or exams to support their circumstance. Failure to comply with this policy will result in a grade of zero and you will not be able to make up the Group Project presentation without written permission from Dr. Ferber.

Additional Course Information

A Police Information Check and/or current immunization record may be required. If relevant to this course, further information will be communicated.

The demands of this activity can be harmful to a student with physical limitations. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any physical limitations (including a recent positive PAR-Q or PAR-Q+ or GAQ) prior to participating in any activity class. Appropriate activity modifications will be made to accommodate these students.

Contacting the Instructor

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak with their instructor during class or office hours. If you wish to meet with the instructor outside of office hours, please phone or email the instructor to make an appointment; please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email.

Email, while commonly used, does limit the effectiveness of communications and may not be the best way for instructors to answer student questions. Therefore, the instructor may request a telephone call or personal meeting. Your instructor will inform you as to their expectations about emails.

Students' Union

The Faculty of Kinesiology representative is Elbert Tom who can be reached at kinesrep@su.ucalgary.ca.

Supplementary Course Information

Student Success

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent [mental health resources](#) available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre). Please also refer to the [Campus Mental Health Strategy](#), renewed in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Academic Accommodation Policy and Information on Student Accessibility Services

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation as early as possible. If you are a student with a documented disability or medical condition who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#), please contact their office at (403) 210-6019. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor preferably within the first seven (7) days of this course. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services **are not** eligible for formal academic accommodation. Please review the [Student Accommodation Policy](#) and [Procedure for Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for an undergraduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to Jodie Griffiths, Manager Academic Program and Administration at jodie.griffiths@ucalgary.ca.

Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for an undergraduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the [Vice-Provost \(Student Experience\)](#).

Academic Integrity

A single offence of cheating, plagiarism or other academic misconduct is a serious act that will not be tolerated in the Faculty of Kinesiology. Penalties for such acts will be determined by the Dean or designate and may result in a failing grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion. Any student who is uncertain if an action falls into this category should consult the instructor and/or the [Academic Calendar](#) in advance.

Academic misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and, failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar. Please familiarize yourself with the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) and [Student Academic Misconduct Procedure](#).

The Student Success Centre provides many excellent resources related to [Academic Integrity](#) that students are encouraged to explore.

Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Media Recording for Study Purposes

Students who wish to audio record lectures for personal study purposes need to follow the guidelines outlined in [Section E.6 of the University Calendar](#). Unless the audio recording of lectures is part of a student accessibility requirement, permission must be sought by the course instructor to audio record lectures. Additional information about media recordings specific to the course will be shared by the course instructor as applicable.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary. The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Please refer to the [website](#) for further details.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright](#) and requirements of the [Copyright Act](#) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the [Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Any surfing of the Internet during lectures, labs, tutorials, seminars, etc. that is not directly related to the class discussion is distracting and forbidden. Additionally, the use of any electronic devices (i.e., cell phones) for emailing, texting, etc., is prohibited. Please turn **OFF** your phone before the beginning of each class unless permitted. Instructors have the authority, at the discretion of the Dean or designate to require that specific course assignments, term papers, and academic exercises be submitted in an electronic format. For further information, please refer to the [Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and Information Policy](#).

Library and Resources in the Library

Visit the University of Calgary's library at <http://library.ucalgary.ca/>.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found [here](#).

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees and from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, refer to the University of Calgary's [Emergency Management](#) webpage.

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.