IMED 635 Directed Reading

Course Description:

An independent study course for first-year students in the Investigative Medicine program. Topics are chosen by the student, and reading lists are provided by faculty for weekly meetings to discuss articles. Six sessions are required; dates/times by arrangement. Consent of instructor required. Course Director: Eugene Shapiro, M.D.

Format/Structure of Course:

The following is the required format/structure of the reading period for Investigative Medicine students.

• A minimum of three sessions is required, to be completed before the qualifying exam.

• The topics, all of which should have relevance to the proposed thesis work, are initially chosen by the student in consultation with the thesis advisor and approved by the qualifying committee members at time of the preliminary prospectus meeting.

• One topic is to be assigned to each qualifying committee member, excluding the thesis advisor. The sessions are divided approximately equally among the members of the qualifying committee.

• The student is to compile a list of 10 – 20 papers on each of the topic areas assigned. The list of suggested papers is to be sent to the committee member with whom the student will review that topic. The committee member can then approve the list, as well as make substitutions or deletions. Once the papers are approved, a time to meet can be decided upon.

• Students will keep a record of session dates and papers reviewed. The suggested general format is available from the program registrar. The completed reading list will be submitted by the end of the spring term to the Investigative Medicine Program office.

Evaluation:

Each of student’s qualifying committee members will provide at least one question based upon the assigned reading topics. The studens will select two questions and will have 10 working days to prepare a written response. The questions will require the student to formulate a hypothesis, and then write a 6-page proposal in the format of an NIH application, including Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Data, Research Design and Methods, and Bibliography (the latter will not count towards the 6-page limit). The response to each question is to be reviewed by the committee and will be either pass/fail.