Writing 109 HP: Writing for Health Professionals

#### **Prerequsites:** Writing 2, 2LK, 2E, or equivalent; upper-division standing or consent of instructor. Not open for credit to students who have completed English 109M.

**Catalog Description:** Strategy, analysis, format for various types of academic and professional writing in the health care field. Contemporary topics/issues will be the basis of study, discussion, research, and writing.

**Course Description:** Writing 109HP gives students practice with specific kinds of writing involved in the study of health science and medical careers. Course activities consist of readings, discussions, and research writing assignments including documents such as a personal statement and a research project related to the health professions. At least one project entails library research and knowledge of the formal conventions appropriate to writing in the health professions.

The course explores problems and issues concerning health care policy, experimentation, research, bioethics, and the medical humanities. To this end, the course promotes exploration of these issues through both print and online sources.

##### Curricular Premises: Writing 109HP offers additional writing experience to students who are interested in a health related field; since UCSB does not have an official medical school, students are often looking for any curricular or local opportunities to gain exposure to the medical field, making this course particularly useful. Students enrolled in the course are generally interested in health professions, but they come with a wide array of interests and specializations including future ambitions in medical school, dental school, nursing, public health, pharmacology, physical therapy, biomedical research, and other biological sciences. Students also represent a variety of experience with lab and coursework; outside volunteer work or internships; or related work experience. This course helps students with a wide array of experiences best represent themselves in a professional dossier, and prepares the less advanced students for what to do in the future to prepare their materials.

This course offers opportunities for medical humanities work, analysis of the larger field of health sciences, and ethical considerations of health and medicine. These kinds of activities and assignments can lend themselves to richer personal statements and better interviews related to the medical field.

##### Course Requirements:

## **Texts:** The goals of readings and class work are to develop awareness of a diverse array of issues facing health professionals in the world today, including patient experiences, challenges faced by physicians, public health policy, biomedical research, biomedical ethics, and cultural representations of medicine and health professionals

## **Assignments:** Readings and writing assignments will be directed toward the completion of a larger writing project. Students will also work on a professional dossier that includes a resume and personal statement, which may be used for applying to medical school or other professional or graduate programs. Other assignments include grant proposals, medical humanities essays, analyses of public health documents, and case studies. Writing will also be used in personal response papers and log entries. Informal and formal writing assignments allow students to analyze and critique previous theory and research, summarize research findings and research articles, describe and interpret primary research, and argue research claims.

**Outcomes:**

* Recognize and analyze formats and organizational strategies common to the medical field
* Understand specialized terminology of the health field
* Understand how evidence is typically used in the field to support theories or arguments
* Access secondary source materials using a range of resources, including specialized professional journals and databases, websites, and popular literature
* Conduct a significant independent research project, and cite and document sources in a manner appropriate for the field
* Produce a series of shorter texts that demonstrate typical content, formats, and stylistic conventions of the field
* Refine and develop a mature style of writing appropriate for the field
* Tailor writing to meet the requirements of lay, professional, or specialized audiences
* Translate complex writing into clear, concise language.