

PHYT 8916 - Critical Inquiry in Physical Therapy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 03, CRN 42810,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Cathy Bieber Parrott

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Assistant Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

PhD, Health & Rehabilitation Science, YSU, 2023

MS. PT, Advanced Musculoskeletal & Orthopedic PT. University of Pittsburgh, 1994

BS. PT. University of Texas, Medical Branch, Galveston. 1984

Instructor Office Location: Cushwa Hall, Rm 331

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Course Description

8916. Critical Inquiry in Physical Therapy. Student groups will analyze datasets and write up manuscripts for the methods, results and some discussion. Groups will peer review these written reports. Student groups will then revise the report and design a clinically-related project based on the findings of the project. Emphasis will be given to formal research proposals, clinical applications, and resources for project implementation. Three hour lecture 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Evidence Based Physical Therapy		

Fetters L, Tilson J. (2019), Evidence Based Physical Therapy. 2nd Ed. F A Davis. Available through <https://accessphysiotherapy.mhmedical.com/>.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Ch 1	Syllabus review, Assignment overview - group and individual submissions Final EB product explanation (manuscript based on CAT synthesis Review of EBP	Due: Patient information and individual research Question for lit search
8/31	Brennan ML, Arlt SP, Belshaw Z, Buckley L, Corah L, Doit H, Fajt VR, Grindlay DJC, Moberly HK, Morrow LD, Stavisky J, White C. Critically Appraised Topics (CATs) in Veterinary Medicine: Applying Evidence in Clinical Practice. Front Vet Sci. 2020 Jun 26;7:314. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2020.00314. PMID: 32695798; PMCID: PMC7333781.	Introduction to the CAT process & form Topic determination and group assignment	Due: PICO for final topic (Group)



9/7	Ch 2	From PICO to search terms. Literature search in Pubme How to get full articles if not easily available	Due: PICO search strategy and results - group
9/14	Ch 4	Research study validity/bias discussion. Are all threats deadly? Group work on CAT 1 for article on treatment comparison for chronic LBP	Due: CAT form for Chronic LBP article (group)
9/21	ch 11	Implementing EBP in clinic: critique of a study's validity & analysis of data for usefulness of results, then compare to time/financial costs and social/pt acceptance to implement CAT 1 formative faculty feedback	
9/28		In class work on CAT 2 w faculty prompts	Due: CAT 2 form (group)
10/5		Group presentations of CAT 2 with class discussion	Presentation handout CAT 2 - group
10/12		In class work on CAT 3 w faculty prompts	Due: CAT 3 form (Group)
10/19		Group presentations of CAT 3 with class discussion	Presentation handout CAT 3 - group
10/26	Szlosek PA, Campbell M. Effectiveness of Dry Cupping as a Treatment for Plantar Fasciitis: A Critically Appraised Topic. J Sport Rehabil. 2022 Oct 10;32(2):227-233. doi: 10.1123/jsr.2022-0198. PMID: 36216334.	Synthesis of CATs for developing/updating body of knowledge Data analysis for synthesis articles Interpreting meta-analysis forest plots	Due: peer review of another group's CATs - individual
11/2	Ch 7 & 8	In class work on CAT synthesis with faculty prompts Synthesis of Evidence via CATs and SR as precursor to CPGs	
11/9		Presentation of CATs synthesis	Due: Synthesis of CATs - group manuscript including recommendations for practice
11/16	Ch 11, continued How Gen AI is transforming medical education, link provided in Blackboard	Reflection on EBP for improving clinical practice Gen AI and EBP	Due: Comparison of AI generated POC and EBP recommendations
11/23		Thanksgiving Holiday	
11/30		Group presentations on AI and EBP	Presentation handout on AI and EBP POC
12/7		Group presentation on AI and EBP Reserved for revisions to synthesis manuscript if needed.	Due: Certificate of completion for APTA course: online course "Where "Best Practice" Begins. Is it a CPG? A Primer for Educators, Researchers, and Future Guideline Developers"

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