BE 694 Biomedical Needs Finding  
BE 695 Advanced Biomedical Design and Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Course: BE 695/BE 694  
Semester: Fall 2019 – Spring 2020  
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-8:15 PM  
Location: LSE B03 (24 Cummington Mall, downstairs)  
Credits: BE 694 = 1 Credit (F19 only)  
BE 695 = 8 Credits (both F19 and S20 required)

Course Director: Prof. Mario Cabodi, Directors of BME Masters Programs, cabodi@bu.edu  
Co-Director: Mr. Marc Gillette, Director, International Strategy, Boston Scientific Corp.  
Co-Director (F19): Dr. Jonathan Rosen, Master Lecturer, BME  
Co-Director (F19): Dr. Greg Martin, Senior Lecturer, BME  
Office: ERB 331, 44 Cummington Mall  
Office Hours: by appointment only

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND APPROACH

BE 694 is a one credit, one semester class taught in conjunction with BE 695. In this course, student teams will work with their Clinical Advisor, a senior clinician practicing at the Boston Medical Center, in their selected clinical specialty, to observe first-hand how technology is applied to the diagnosis and treatment of their patients. Detailed and comprehensive observation logs will be maintained by each student recording their visits to the clinic. Opportunities for improving the current standard of care through technology and new product development will be explored through the “Clinical Needs Finding” process.

BE 695 is a two-semester project-based advanced biomedical design course that provides graduate engineering students with an intense, immersive, experiential opportunity to develop professional-level skills in biomedical product design and development.

The course is divided into four modules: Discovery, Design, Development, and Deployment.

During the Discovery Module, students will directly observe clinical practice related to their selected clinical specialty. Teams will identify technology-related clinical challenges, select their own project, and explore the relevant anatomy, physiology, and pathology. Classroom instruction will include introductions in formal needs finding, intellectual property, regulatory, and safety methods. Clinical requirements will be developed during this Module.

During the Design Module, many alternative design strategies will be explored and compared in the context of Competitive Analysis, intellectual property strategies, preliminary market trends, and economic variables. An optimized solution strategy will be proposed as the final presentation for this Module.

During the Development Module, students will incorporate Design for Manufacturing considerations, establish engineering specifications, develop risk mitigation strategies, and build working prototypes of key components of their engineering solution. Verification testing will be used to evaluate design feasibility.
During the Deployment Module, students will create a full business model canvas, evaluate reimbursement and intellectual property feasibility. Packaging, labeling, and sterilization considerations will be included in the business model analysis.

Biomedical research and industry leaders will be invited to present cases that illustrate both technology successes and failures from their own experience, and discuss trends for the future of medical innovation.

For BME Master of Engineering students, BE 695 is a required course and fulfills one technical and one leadership requirement towards completing the Biomedical Masters of Engineering degree program at Boston University. Students are required to take both semesters to receive graduate credit for the course.

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REQUIRED MATERIALS

**Individual and Team Observation Logs and Design Journals**

Each member of each Team will keep and maintain a comprehensive log of their clinical observations. A standard template is provided. Each student will also maintain a journal that will record the preparation, analysis, critiques, and novelty related to each idea generated during observations, discussions, meetings, and in class. These will be incorporated in the “Binder” as part of the Design History File. The team member serving as the Documentation Coordinator each week will serve as the Recording Engineer and maintain minutes for each team meeting and coordinate assembling the Team Log for each week. The Logs will be maintained and assembled on a suitable server (Google Drive or Dropbox). This personal Journal can be prepared on paper, but should be routinely scanned into an appropriate server file.

**Not required, but a useful reference:**


**Additional Reading Materials** will be provided in advance of lectures, guest lectures, current event discussions, including articles, texts, videos, and online sites.

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EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

**Clinical Observations:** Each Team will be responsible for working with the scheduling coordinator for your specialty to select and schedule procedures appropriate for your observations. Most Operating Rooms are very crowded places, and the senior clinician in charge of that room sets the rules for how many observers can be present, for how long, and how often. Teams will often have to rotate through longer procedures, take notes on a section of the case, and then combine and analyze the full experience in Team Meetings. In general, each student and each team will want to take the fullest possible advantage of this unique experience. On average, each student should aim for at least 50-100 hours of observations during the year, with much of that time scheduled during the first semester.
**Attendance:** Each week of this course will include a variety of activities: lectures on engineering topics, invited lectures by researchers and professionals working in the medical device field, hands-on prototyping, discussions, and presentations from your fellow classmates. We expect you to attend every class and you must let us know in advance (via email) if you plan to miss a class; everyone gets a single excused absence (*no questions asked*), and, of course, please do not come to class if you are ill. Please note that having previously-arranged travel or vacation plans is not a reason to miss class.

**Smartphone/electronics policy:** We all know how intrusive and distracting phones/smartwatches/tablets/laptops can be. There will be times when I specifically ask you to read a case study online, work on the Citrix server, or look up relevant information for an activity; outside of these times, *please do not spend time on your gadgets during lecture.* I will mention ahead of time when I would like you to use your electronics. Please respect these requests, and we will all get more out of class; your grade will be affected by non-compliance with these requests.

**Blackboard Learn site:** All course documents, assignments, and announcements will be available on the Blackboard Learn course site. *Submit all assignments and evaluations to the Blackboard site.* Just to be clear: *submit all assignments and evaluations to the Blackboard site.* Do not email them to us. It is your responsibility to ensure that submissions are completed and accepted by Blackboard Learn.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism of ANY KIND will not be tolerated. Any assignment that exhibits plagiarism, copying, cutting and pasting, teamwork when teamwork is precluded will result in an F (zero credit) on that assignment. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, an F in the course may result. The Academic Conduct Code is available at [http://www.bu.edu/eng/current-students/ugrad/faq/](http://www.bu.edu/eng/current-students/ugrad/faq/). All quoted text must be properly cited. Any type of online searching is allowed, but special care must be taken to "consider the source". There is, in fact, such a thing as “fake news”!

**Disability Accommodation:** Reasonable accommodations for eligible individuals will be provided in accordance with Boston University policies as described: [http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/disability-accommodation/](http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/disability-accommodation/)

Please make the Instructors aware of any required accommodations at the earliest possible times.

**Re-Grading:** Requests on exams and assignments must be submitted in writing within one week of grades being returned and only after the solutions are posted. A rationale for re-grading should be included. Points will only be changed for errors made in calculating final scores or grading that did not follow the grading rubric for that assignment.

**Official BU Policy on Re-Grading:** “This policy provides a means for a student to contest a final course grade received in a credit-bearing Boston University course when that grade is alleged by the student to be arbitrary. Grading is the prerogative of the faculty and is based upon a student’s performance against a clearly articulated set of assignments, expectations, and standards.

Arbitrary grades are defined as those:
- assigned to a student on some basis other than performance in the course; or,
- assigned to a student by resorting to unreasonable standards different from those which were applied to other students in that course or section of the course; or,
• assigned to a student on the basis of criteria that are a substantial, unreasonable, and unannounced departure from the instructor’s previously articulated standards.

Issues that do not meet one or more of these criteria of arbitrariness are not appropriate bases for a grade appeal under this policy. Only final course grades may be formally appealed.”

**Due dates:** All assignments should be submitted by 11:59 pm EST on the day that they are due: electronic copies should be uploaded to the Blackboard Learn site. In the unlikely event that Blackboard Learn should fail, you may email the assignments to all instructors.

Any assignment handed in late without prior approval for extra time will lose 10% after one day, 25% after two days, and will not be graded after three days.
ASSESSMENT (GRADING) BE 694

Clinical Observation Volume (25%)
Total individual observation time and frequency.

Clinical Observation Quality (25%)
Care, completeness, detailed descriptions, questions and insights. Individual and team.

Clinical Observation Problem Synthesis (30%)
Quality and quantity of proposed clinical challenges. Presentations and discussion leading to final selection of Clinical Challenge for the Team. Meeting deadlines and deliverables. Individual and team.

Clinical Etiquette (20%)
Observed procedures, protocols, professional decorum, respect and appreciation. Individual.

Assignments:
Approximately every two weeks, each team will turn in team logs for the period to BlackBoard Learn. Each team will make a short presentation on early observations, on Clinical Challenge selection process (25 to 3 to 1), and on Final Selection rationale. Grades will be posted privately on BBL approximately every month during the F19 semester.

ASSESSMENT (GRADING) BE 695

Your final grade for BE 695 will not be recorded until the end of the Spring semester. A special no-penalty incomplete “J” grade will be recorded at the end of the F19 semester. Your BE 695 final grade will be determined by a combination of individual and group assignments:

__Individual Assignments (25%)__:
- Design journal entries, current events postings, individual writing assignments, and individual contributions to the Binder will be graded and privately posted on BlackBoard Learn. Each assignment will have written expectations, deliverables, and grading rubrics posted when the assignment is opened.

__Team Assignments (20%)__:
- Team Meeting minutes, research plans, team and team presentations will be graded and periodically posted privately to the Team.

__Peer Evaluation (10%)__:
- Peer teaching and mentoring, constructive group dynamics, outreach to other teams, supportive critiques during presentations, as reported by classmates.
**Class Participation (15%)**
- Attendance, contributions during class discussions, Case studies discussions

**Clinical Evaluation (5%)**
Each student and each team will be evaluated by their Clinical Advisory Team on their adherence to clinical protocol, their courteousness, and their curiosity quotient.

**Binder (25%)**: Overall completeness, organization, insights, analysis, planning, and conclusions.

**Assignments**: All individual assignments are to be performed and graded separately. There will be 5 individual assignments in the fall semester and 5 individual assignments in the spring semester. Group assignments are to be completed with input and agreement from all teammates; all members of the team will be expected to be able to explain the assumptions and reasoning behind the submitted work.

**Peer evaluation**: Peer evaluations of contributions to group work will constitute 10% of individual grades on the project. These points are to ensure that students take an active role in the learning process and are fully engaged in all aspects of the course. Each team member will assume a Team Leader position on a rotating basis, and will be in charge of a design review or the final presentation. The peer evaluation score will include an assessment of each member’s participation level, quality of work, and leadership skills.

**Class Participation**: This portion of final grades includes attendance, active participation during class and both live and online discussions. You are also expected to participate fully in providing feedback to other teams during their presentations.

**Team Roles**: Each Team will decide on four Roles: Team Leader, Clinical Liaison, Document Coordinator, Research Coordinator. Roles described on BlackBoard Learn, and there will be four rotations during the year (see schedule on BlackBoard Learn). For those teams with four members, the last rotation roles to be determined by the team.