

SUBJECT OUTLINE



Subject Name:

Naturopathic Philosophy

Subject Code:

NATP111

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Award/s: Bachelor of Complementary Medicine **Total course credit points:** 48 **Level:** 1st Year
Duration: 1 Semester
Subject Coordinator: David Stelfox (Adelaide)
Subject is: Core **Subject Credit Points:** 2

Student Workload:

No. timetabled hours per week:	No. personal study hours per week:	Total hours per week:
3	2	5

Delivery Mode:

E-Learning 2 hour lecture 1 hour tutorial
Details: Narrated Powerpoint presentations, webinars
Tutor moderated discussion forum and activities
Prescribed readings, student handouts, web-based resources

Full Time
Part Time

Pre-requisites: Nil

Co-requisites: Nil

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Subject Rationale

This subject introduces naturopathic philosophy and the principles that underlie naturopathic clinical practice. Students gain an understanding of the historical background as well as an appreciation of the pioneers of the profession. Through critical questioning and discussion, students engage in exploration of the principles and key concepts and how they relate to treatment modalities. The role of practitioner and patient is also explored with a view to supporting the development of self-reflection and self-development throughout the course as well as in later practice. This subject provides an essential foundation for further study and practice of naturopathy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and explain the philosophical principles underlying Naturopathy and their application to clinical practice.
2. Develop a holistic view of health and naturopathic healthcare that encompasses the biopsychosocialspiritual context.
3. Distinguish between the conventional medical approach and the naturopathic approach to symptoms, acute and chronic disease and the evaluation of treatment outcomes.
4. Develop the ability to apply the naturopathic view of the process of healing and the therapeutic order to clinical case analyses.
5. Understand the Unity of Disease theory and the Determinants of Health as frameworks for naturopathic case analysis.
6. Understand the basics of the roles and impact of the practitioner and the client on the healing process.
7. Understand the diversity of the Naturopathic profession and its dynamic state of development.

Assessment Tasks				
Type	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Weeks Content Delivered	Week Due	Weighting
Tutorial Participation (Weekly forum posts on activities and topics, minimum. 150 words)	1-7	1-13	1-13	1% each plus 2% bonus = 15%
Case Analysis (essay question, 1000 words)	1-5	1-7	Sunday following Week 8	25%
Quiz (short answer questions)	1-6	1-10	Sunday following Week 11	10%
Final Exam (extended response questions, including case analysis)	1-7	1-13	Final Exam Period	50%

Prescribed readings:

1. Lindlahr, H. (2010). *Nature cure*. Miami, FL: Hardpress Publishing. [ebook available]

Recommended readings:

1. Chaitow, L. (Ed.) (2008). *Naturopathic physical medicine*. Edinburgh, Scotland: Churchill Livingstone Elsevier. [ebook available]
2. Hechtman, L. (2012). *Clinical naturopathic medicine*. Chatswood, NSW: Churchill Livingstone Elsevier. [ebook available]
3. Kirchfeld, F., & Boyle, W. (2005). *Nature doctors: Pioneers in naturopathic medicine* (2nd ed.). Portland, OR: NCNM Press.
4. Oschman, J. L. (2003). *Energy medicine in therapeutics and human performance*. Edinburgh, Scotland: Butterworth Heinemann. [ebook available]
5. Pizzorno, J. E., & Murray, M. T. (Eds.) (2013). *Textbook of natural medicine* (4th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Churchill Livingstone. [ebook available]

Subject Content		
Week	Lecture	Tutorial
1.	Conceptual/Philosophical/Ideological Underpinnings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole medical systems • Definition of Naturopathy & brief history • Naturopathic therapies/scope of practice in Australia • Conventional vs. naturopathic models/paradigms • Evidence-based vs. evidence-informed practice • What does it mean to heal or cure? What is health/wellness? (WHO definition, Lindlahr, Hahnemann) • Importance/relevance of philosophy and clinical theory in practice • Introduction to the framework of the semester 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide

2.	<i>Vis Medicatrix Naturae</i> – The Healing Power of Nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the principle; key role in naturopathy • Vitalism in other whole medical systems (qi, prana, etc) • Homeostasis and self-repair • Historical roots of vitalism in naturopathic therapies • Materialism/bioscience view of the body and the <i>Vis Medicatrix Naturae</i> • Relationship of spirituality to the concept of the <i>Vis Medicatrix Naturae</i> • Connection to/love of nature, working in synergy with nature • Modern energy medicine 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
3.	Process of Disease and Healing – The VMN in Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturopathic definition of disease • Acute vs. chronic disease • Symptoms as expressions of the illness • Acute inflammatory process & the body’s innate intelligence • Schematic of the process of disease and healing • Removing obstacles to cure/disturbing factors • Hering’s Principles of Cure • Healing Reactions/Discharge vs. Disease Crisis 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide Webinar: Introduction to naturopathic case analysis
4.	<i>Primum Non Nocere</i> – First Do No Harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the principle; Hippocratic history • Concept of the least force intervention • Stages of inflammation • First Do Nothing as a corollary • Distinguishing suppression, palliation and cure/ elimination • Restorative practices as least force interventions • The role of patience in achieving a cure 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
5.	The Therapeutic Order – The Guiding Force for First Do No Harm <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish the conditions for health 2. Stimulate self-healing mechanisms 3. Support weakened or damaged systems or organs 4. Address structural integrity 5. Address pathology with specific natural substances, modalities or interventions 6. Address pathology with specific pharmacologic or synthetic substances 7. Suppress pathology 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
6.	<i>Tolle Totem</i> – Treat the Whole Person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the principle and of holism • Treating the person vs. fighting the disease • Individualised view of disease • Analysis and Synthesis • Complexity and variability • The role of context/systems in holism • Biopsychosocialspiritual context/approach • Overview of Integral Theory • Role of spirituality in medicine and healing 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide

7.	Constitutional Medicine – Treating the Whole Person in Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Constitution” defined • Overview of the constitutional systems of homeopathy, Ayurveda and Five Element Acupuncture • Identification of patterns: physical, mental, emotional 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
NON-TEACHING WEEK (note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week) Online Students - The break week falls between Weeks 7 and 8.		
8.	Tolle Causam – Treat the Cause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the principle • Causes of illness according to historical medical thought, e.g., Ayurveda • Unity of Disease (Lindlahr) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary and secondary causes of disease • Terrain, miasm and temperament vs. pathogen • Toxemia • Imbalance of microflora • NDD – Nature Deficit Disorder • Modern sources of toxicity 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
9.	The Determinants of Health and Nature Cure – Treating the Causes of Illness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the Determinants of Health • Addressing the Determinants of Health • History and practice of hygiene and Nature Cure • How these approaches address the primary and secondary causes of disease • The emerging approach of Emunctorology 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
10.	Docere – Naturopath As Teacher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the principle • Role of the naturopath as educator and guide • Assessing readiness for change • Types of support and ways of “teaching” • Walking the talk—role modelling • Therapeutic presence • Individual vs. group visits • Outreach to community • Writing/speaking The Placebo Effect - the patient as a modality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placebo in treatment • Total treatment effect • Placebo in research • Therapeutic value of the placebo effect 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
11.	Practitioner as a Therapy: Docere Through Being the Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-development as a practitioner/wounded healer • Interactive Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unconditional Presence ○ Healthy boundaries ○ Listening without judgment 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verbal and non-verbal communication ○ Self reflection ○ Therapeutic touch <p>The patient/practitioner relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distribution of power within a clinical setting ● Rapport building ● Horizontal & vertical vectors implicit within a patient/practitioner relationship ● Patient centred practice: key concepts 	
12.	<p>Preventare — Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definition of the principle ● Revisit earlier concepts as they apply to prevention ● Health during conception and pregnancy ● Health management in childhood and adolescence ● Empowering the patient to achieve and maintain health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patient engagement ○ Intention and healing ○ Healing power of the mind ○ Psychoneuroimmunoendocrinology 	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
13.	<p>Creating a Healthy World Through Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Socioeconomic Determinants of Health ● Sustainable (economic/environmental)/ restorative health care—a vision <p>The Gaia hypothesis and health—whole systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Humanity’s impact on the environment & vice versa ● “Metaflammation” and climate change – the link ● Soil depletion and food quality ● Consequences of global population growth <p>Diversity of the naturopathic profession and its dynamic state of development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Naturopathic medicine in North America, India and Europe ● Recent important developments in naturopathy- Foundations of Naturopathic Medicine Project ● Role of naturopathy as a bridge between conventional and traditional medicine in developing countries ● Role of integrative/collaborative medicine in developed countries ● The future of naturopathy in Australia—professional formation <p>Synthesis of the semester</p>	Forum discussion and activities per the Subject Study Guide
14.	Non-Teaching Week 1 (note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week).	
15.	Non-Teaching Week 2 (note that make-up classes may be scheduled in this week).	
16.	<p>Final Exam Week 1</p> <p>*Please note: Online enrolled students are required to sit the final exam on campus as per the Examination Policy – Higher Education. The Exam Week for subjects offered online is identified for each enrolment period on the Student Calendar for Online Higher Education Study for the current calendar year.</p>	
17.	Final Exam Week 2	