Course Title: Independent Study - Prevalence of Coccidioidomycosis Among Outdoor Workers in the Desert Southwest

Instructor: Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, M.D., Ph.D., MSErg

Student: Abdulahi Ayanwale

Course Description:
This independent study is aimed at a comprehensive exploration of the prevalence of coccidioidomycosis among outdoor workers in the desert southwest region of the US. The ultimate goal is the development of a dissertation proposal adhering to APA guidelines, accompanied by a publishable literature review.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of coccidioidomycosis, its causes, manifestations, and risk factors.
2. Critically review and synthesize existing literature on the prevalence of the disease in the specified demographic.
3. Formulate a research question and methodology for the dissertation proposal.
4. Produce a publishable review of the literature.

Biweekly Breakdown:

Weeks 1-2: Introduction to Coccidioidomycosis
- Readings: Basic texts on coccidioidomycosis, its etiology, and clinical manifestations.
- Deliverable: Brief report summarizing initial findings.

Weeks 3-4: Risk Factors and Epidemiology
- Readings: Epidemiological studies on coccidioidomycosis, with a focus on outdoor workers.
- Deliverable: Annotated bibliography of 10-15 key articles.

Weeks 5-6: Detailed Study of the Desert Southwest Region
- Readings: Geographical, climatic, and occupational studies related to the desert southwest.
- Deliverable: Summary report on the potential factors contributing to coccidioidomycosis in this region.
Weeks 7-8: Literature Review - Gathering and Synthesizing
- Readings: Comprehensive exploration of existing literature.
- Deliverable: Draft of the literature review (Introduction and Methodology sections).

Weeks 9-10: Literature Review - Finalizing and Refining
- Readings: Continued exploration and synthesis.
- Deliverable: Completed draft of the Results and Discussion sections of the literature review.

Weeks 11-12: Dissertation Proposal Development
- Readings: APA guidelines on research proposal structuring.
- Deliverable: Draft of the dissertation proposal, including research questions and proposed methodology.

Weeks 13-14: Refinement and Finalization
- Activities: Meet with instructor for feedback, refine proposal.
- Deliverable: Final dissertation proposal and final draft of the literature review for potential publication.

Final Week: Conclusion and Reflection
- Deliverable: Reflection on the learning process, challenges faced, and plans for the next steps in the research.

Resources:
1. Primary texts available at UTEP Library
2. Q1 & Q2 journal publications on coccidioidomycosis
3. APA Publication Manual
4. PubMed, Web of Science, EBSCO & Science Direct
5. College librarian