



January 14, 2009

Dear Pathophysiology Student!

Welcome!

My records show that you have registered for my Pathophysiology course for the Spring, 2009 Semester. Welcome! We will have a great semester and learn lots of neat things! I'm writing this letter to tell you about some of the things I have planned for the class. This is the fifth semester for Pathophysiology at BC. It's a wonderful way to review your A & P while learning about all the diseases you're going to be seeing in patients once you get into nursing school. BC is one of only 3 community colleges in California who teach the course! The BC course transfers to CSUB.

Syllabus and Course Schedules!

Your Syllabus and Course Schedules will be posted on my website (see info below) as .pdf documents. (If you do not have a .pdf reader installed on your computer I have included a link there to download it free.) Please download and read these documents. You should print them so you can bring them to class with you the first few days. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about them in class the first week.

Website!

I have a website on the Internet where I post announcements, assignments and other pertinent and interesting information. The URL (or address) is:

www.bioprof.org

Click on the link to the Pathophysiology sections. I add new stuff frequently, so check often.

Podcasts!

For the last 4 years I have been podcasting my lectures and posting them to the web. Do you have an iPod or another brand of MP3 player? You'll be able to download my lecture to listen to again and again. You can listen to lectures at the laundromat, on the treadmill or on the bus. Not a substitute for attending class because it contains no visuals, but a great way to review material or to make sure your notes are complete. Don't have an iPod or MP3 player? You can play MP3 files on your computer as long as you have a sound card and any media player or burn to a CD. You can also listen or download at the computer commons. At this point in time I'm one of a few profs at BC who podcasts her lectures. You can check this out on my website.

Student Success!

Student success is important to me. You have already been a successful student in Anatomy, Physiology and probably, Microbiology. The study habits you have learned will help you to be successful in this course as well. Some of you are taking this course in order to improve your chances of getting accepted into the nursing program. If you need to earn a B or better in this course but you earned Cs in your A&P courses, you need to develop better study strategies to accomplish that goal. All Patho students will need to review your A & P material to refresh your memories but if you received lower than a B in these classes you will need to finally learn the material at an A level in order to do well in this class. I'm

hoping that by letting you know in advance what to expect next semester you'll be able to budget your time better and end up with a better grade.

Please read through the course schedule and think about the time you have already committed to other classes, to your job, to family obligations. Do you have enough time to accomplish it all? If you get sick, have a car problem, or a family problem can you still keep up your schoolwork? Do you need to consider taking a lighter load of classes or working fewer hours? Every semester students tell me they are glad they took a lighter course and work load and students who didn't cut back have told me if they had it to do over again they would for sure work less and take fewer classes. You should arrange your schedule to accommodate at least 1 to 2 hours of studying for every hour you are in class.

If you use a babysitter during classes, make sure you have a back-up plan in case your child or sitter gets sick. Planning ahead will enable you to switch to your back-up plan and not have to miss any classes.

Books!

You may wish to buy your books before the first day of class. (The lines in the bookstore are incredible every semester) You can avoid this long wait by buying your books early. The title is listed in the syllabus. Just don't write your name in them till you've been to class. There are a number of optional study aids available. I will bring them to class the first day for you to examine so you can decide which one(s) works for you.

You may notice that this textbook comes with a Study Guide, CD and a user-friendly website with study questions and activities and links to other websites as well. Many test questions will come directly from the study questions in this text and website. Expect assignments in your study guide. I will be referring to this book in class and my course schedule refers to chapter numbers in this text only. If you buy this book used, try to get the website code from the previous owner. Last semester many students planned to keep their Patho texts.

Computer Accounts!

As a BC student, you are entitled to a free e-mail account. You will need access to a computer and to the internet and e-mail in order to successfully complete this course. Please get your free account by going to the Computer Commons in the lower level of the Library Building. Go to the HELP desk which is located in the very back of the room. Ask them how to get a student account. (You may be able to request it online). You may need to take your validated student ID or your paid fee receipt with you to prove that you are a registered student. This process takes a week or two. If you already have an account but haven't used it for a while, make sure your password still works.

Questions?

If you have any questions you may call me at my office at 395-4449. I probably won't be there during vacation until just before school starts, but I will retrieve my phone messages periodically and call you back (If your phone does not accept blocked calls, I cannot call you back). I can be reached by e-mail at either: bcbioprof@mac.com (both now and later) or ikelly@bakersfieldcollege.edu (after school begins)

See you on January 21st!

Professor Kelly