COURSE WALKTHROUGH

The Instructional Rhythm of an
Accelerated 8 Week, Mid-Semester Online Presentation of
Anatomy & Physiology I

Introduction - This course has been developed around a logical sequence of instructional topics to enable students to think both anatomically and physiologically. Students will quickly realize that each module serves as a foundation for subsequent modules, even though each is important in its own right. The instructional modules are identifiable on Blackboard in the "Course Content" folder.

This course is presented online (asynchronously), where the student works independently, mastering the material. Given this, two blocks of time must be set aside for each module.

This course is presented online (asynchronously), allowing students to work independently while mastering the material. Given this format, two blocks of time should be reserved for each module:

- First, time is necessary to view the content; ideally, this should occur during the first day or two at the start of each module. To accomplish this, 4 hours should be allocated.

- Second, time must be dedicated to mastering the material. This will consume the majority of your time. Due to the accelerated nature of the course, 3-4 hours should be budgeted for this process.

In support of the instructional unit, several tools are available to you under the ***Course Content*** tab on Blackboard. Upon clicking on a unit, you will find:

Learning Guide - For each instructional unit, a Learning Guide will assist you in navigating the course content for each module. Additionally, the Learning Guide provides the following:

- Tips on approaching the content.
- Study pointers.
- Exam issues worth noting.

- Other pertinent guidance.

Lecture Home Page - There is a Lecture Home Page that acts as a resource hub for the instructional unit. You will find a lecture outline, supportive handouts, laboratory considerations, and additional resources here. Note that this is a link to an academic website I maintain for teaching purposes (A direct link to this website is: www.noelways.com).

Learning Outline - At the core of the learning modules is a Lecture Outline. This outline systematically organizes each module's anatomical and physiological considerations and will guide you through the text, videos, and other supplemental materials provided. You will find that the outlines will help you focus on what is essential for each module. Any topics not included in the outlines are not required. The outline is also designed to serve as the primary document for note-taking purposes.

Handouts - The outline may direct you to a Handout at specific points within the lecture sequence. This usually occurs when illustrations or broad physiological processes are involved, as the outline may be insufficient. Here, the handout will contain the text and images necessary to master a more complex topic under discussion. Topics covered this way tend to be of great importance and require careful consideration.

Image Bank - A link to an Image Bank will provide a visual approach to the lecture content. Students who engage in visual study often excel compared to those who primarily rely on notes and written text. Within the image bank, you will find search results for specific images and images relevant to understanding the material. PowerPoint documents for the lecture are also located there. It is important to note that some of these images may be copyright-protected and should only be used for your educational benefit. They are not to be shared with anyone outside of this course.

Video Support - The Video Support link leads to videos offering detailed coverage of the material presented in the lecture sequence. These have undoubtedly been favored as a “go-to” resource for former students when learning the material. These videos might take two forms: 1. An actual in-class lecture from a previous semester, and 2. A “desktop” lecture, where I present material from my office using video tools.

However, there is an important caveat: If something is on the outline, you need to know it. If it is not presented in the lecture (which is rare), use your text or other resources to master the topic. Additionally, some images used in the videos may be copyright-protected. Use these videos solely for personal educational purposes and do not share them outside of class.

Laboratory Support - Laboratory Support tools provide guidance in microscope work, dissections, and models. You will also find documents that will assist you in mastering the laboratory material.

About Assessments – Assessments are crucial for evaluating student progress in this course, which is foundational for subsequent coursework. College program administrators need to ensure that you are progressing towards becoming a competent medical professional. Therefore, frequent exams are implemented as assessment tools. The exams provide evidence of successful mastery of the curricula and function as checkpoints for students as they progress through a semester.

If a student studies hard and masters the material, the exam can be enjoyable. However, if you do not perform well on an exam, "fun" may not be your experience. Nevertheless, STUDY HARD and master the material.

Assessment occurs frequently. With few exceptions, each unit will have its own assessment exam, and some units may be divided into two parts to reduce the content load. After finishing one exam, you will begin mastering the next unit, and that exam will follow soon after. With many exams, we can break up the material into smaller sections for mastery, leading to improved student retention. Exam dates are listed on the syllabus, and you will be informed as soon as possible if any unforeseen circumstances necessitate changing these dates (though this is unlikely).