

Philosophy Regarding Classes Missed by Students.

In the university environment, there is an implied contract between students and faculty. You (students) expect us (faculty) to come to class, and we also expect you to come to class. Occasionally, it might be necessary for a student to miss a class. If you must miss an occasional class, we trust you, as a responsible adult, to do so only for adequate reason. Therefore, you don't need to obtain permission before skipping a class or to explain why you were absent. However, even though you may have missed the class for good reason, you are nevertheless responsible for making up the work, as well as for complying with any announcements, directives, or instructions that might have been issued during the missed class. Therefore, if you must miss a class, it is up to **you** both to find out what was covered or announced, **and** to make up any missed work in a timely fashion.

You should prepare, on the very first day of the semester, for the possible occurrence of sudden brief acute illness (stomach ache, head ache, etc.), or of other, non-medical emergencies, such as a flat tire, traffic jam, family emergency, or the like. We suggest that you exchange phone numbers and E-mail addresses with several of your classmates. If at all possible, give notice to one of your colleagues prior to the class you will miss. Follow up as soon as possible after the missed class, so that you will be able to stay abreast of what is happening in the class. Also, if you know in advance that you will miss a class, you should arrange to have someone hand in for you any assignments you may have done that are due that day. If you did not make advance arrangements, then it is even more important that you follow up rapidly to find out what you missed and to make up for missed work.

Do **not** send E-mail to your instructor, either asking in advance of class what does he/she intend to cover, or querying him/her subsequent to the class on what was covered. Each instructor is responsible for a large number of students in the course of a semester, and it would take an inordinate amount of our time to respond to such requests. Fortunately, it occurs only rarely that a student encounters a serious health problem or an issue in his/her personal or family life that spans several consecutive classes. We have had an occasional instance of a student's becoming so ill as to require hospitalization. Death or serious illness in the student's family, or severe personal problems, although rare, nevertheless sometimes happen. It is our experience that we have almost always been able to make a special accommodation to try to help a student through such a crisis, and we will certainly make every effort to do so in the future, as well. But we must insist that you take care of the short absences, onesies and twosies, on your own.