

Policy 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. I, as a faculty member, also expect all of my students to come to class. Occasionally, you may find it necessary to miss a class. If you must miss an occasional class, I trust you, as a responsible adult, to do so only for adequate reason. Therefore, you don't need to seek my permission before skipping a solitary class, nor do you need explain afterwards why you were absent. However, even though you may have missed the class for good and valid reason, nevertheless you **are** responsible for making up the work you missed, 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. I suggest that you exchange phone numbers and E-mail addresses on the first day of class 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 class. Also, if you know in advance that you must 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 that you make up for missed work.

Do **not** send me E-mail, either asking in advance of the class you must miss what do I intend to cover, or querying me subsequent to the class on what did I cover. I teach many students each semester, and I just don't have the time to answer a blizzard of "What will I miss?" or "What did I miss?" E-mails. In the fortunately rare case that a student encounters a serious health problem or an issue in his/her personal or family life that spans several consecutive classes, it is my experience that I have almost always been able to make a special accommodation to try to help the student through the crisis, and I will certainly make every effort to do so in the future, as well. But I must insist that you take care of the onesies and twosies on your own.