

NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE ONLINE COURSE IN PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Dear students,

I am happy to inform you that the course in pathophysiology will continue as an online (distance learning) course **starting Wednesday 08/04/2020. on the faculty Moodle platform** accessible at <http://studiesinenglish.med.bg.ac.rs/moodle/course/view.php?id=32>.

Let me explain a few crucial points regarding this course and your involvement.

First of all, we are having a late start because we wanted to prepare and set up a course that will give you the fullest learning experience, and best preparation for the exam, under the circumstances. This took time and a lot of effort on behalf of the whole staff, hence the late start.

The teaching materials will be provided as material for individual work and interactive material.

Materials for individual work are presentations of lectures, seminars and labs.

Lecture presentations are accompanied by an audio recording of the lecture for most lectures, so that they closely resemble attending an actual lecture. Where audio recording is not possible (mostly due to technical issues), the presentation will be accompanied by extensive text serving as a virtual transcript of the spoken lecture, allowing you to follow and understand the slides.

Seminars will be organized either as Moodle lessons or presentations with accompanying text.

Labs will be organized as Moodle lessons with text, photos and video materials to provide all necessary information on how to perform and analyze the exercises.

Your involvement in these activities is tracked by the system. To complete an activity you have to open it and view it from start to finish. Similar to the usual “offline” course **seminars and labs are compulsory, you have to complete them all.** Lectures are not compulsory, but completing them will count towards your attendance points.

Interactive work will be organized as assignments and chat rooms. For interactive work you will be divided into two groups (the only reason is time management). You do not have to worry which group you belong to, the system will show you only time slots that are relevant to your group.

Assignments are for seminars. You will be given a topic from the seminar content and expected to write a short essay on that topic (at least two pages but no more than three pages long, 12pt font, 1,5 spacing). You can submit your essay preferably as a pdf document, but Word documents will be accepted as well. Submission button will be available at the assignment page on the course. Clicking the button will give you a prompt to upload your file. There will be a deadline for file submission, which will be clearly stated on the assignment page. The essays will be reviewed by the professors and feedback will be provided.

Chat rooms are for labs. They will be live sessions - an assistant will be online during your time slot to talk to you, answer your questions, help you fill the workbook, and generally assist you with the respective lab - live, in real time. The chat rooms will be organized in fixed time slots on Tuesdays afternoon so you **will have to log in during your designated time** (it will be visible on the course page) if you want to take part.

The assignments (essays) and chat rooms are geared towards helping you with the learning process, but are **NOT compulsory**. However, submitting assignments and taking part in chat rooms will count towards your activity points for the final mark.

As for the dynamics of the course, it will be based on topics and divided into three parts, “Pathophysiology of the Urinary Tract”, “Pathophysiology of the Endocrine System” and “Pathophysiology of the Nervous System”. These parts (topics) will always start on Wednesdays, but only when one topic is completely covered the next will commence. This is in order to avoid overwhelming you with materials and also structuring the course to serve an educational purpose. Our hope is that this will facilitate learning since in this way you will be able to concentrate on a single organ system and study it from different angles and with different but related materials before moving to the next. When a topic is “opened” (made visible to you), all the lectures from that topic will be available at once, and you can access them at your own convenience and with timing that suites you best. Seminars and Labs will be made available on weekly bases, also always on Wednesdays. You can also access the seminar and lab individual study materials (lessons and presentations) at any time. For interactive activities, however, there will be time constraints that will be clearly designated.

I understand that course dynamics may seem confusing laid out like this but do not worry, when the course starts it will be much clearer.

Finally, this is new to us and therefore we rely on your feedback to make this course better and more suited to your needs, so please feel free to give suggestions and comments. To serve this purpose a general forum will be present at the top of the course page. Here you can communicate with me, as well as with each other, and get help, ask questions, give comments and suggestions regarding the overall organization and implementation of the course.

On the other hand, for the same reason (doing this for the first time to this extent) there might be difficulties and problems during the implementation. If they arise, we ask for your patience and understanding.

In hope you will enjoy this course and find it beneficial,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Srdjan Lopicic