



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY AND ANATOMY

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Dear Entering Class of 2008,

As Course Director, I welcome you to the Human Body, the human gross anatomy course at the Pritzker School of Medicine. I look forward to meeting all of you at the White Coat Ceremony on August 3rd, and in lecture and lab on August 4th.

Everything that happens to a patient happens in their body, so knowledge of human form and function is one of the foundations of medicine. Consequently, the Human Body course presents the students with the following goals:

- Develop conceptual and practical knowledge of the structure and function of the human body at the gross level of organization;
- Understand the embryological, evolutionary, and functional principles of body organization, not merely to memorize and catalogue details of structure;
- Acquire a vocabulary for communicating about the structure and functional processes of the body with other clinicians and researchers;
- Establish a foundation for the lifelong learning of human anatomy required in medicine.

Teaching Staff

You (and I) are fortunate to have an outstanding group of instructors and teaching assistants working on the course. Principal among these are Dr. Eric Lombard, Professor in the Department of Organismal Biology & Anatomy; Betty Katsaros, Laboratory Manager and Instructor; Dr. Jim O'Reilly, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Organismal Biology & Anatomy; and Drs. Jose Iriarte-Diaz and Laura Porro, Postdocs in the Department of Organismal Biology & Anatomy. Up to 12 students in their second year at Pritzker will work as TAs in the course, providing you not only with practical help in lab, but also serving as role models for your time at Pritzker.

Dr. Farr Curlin from the Department of Medicine will be working with you on issues surrounding death and dissection, and in that connection I urge you to read the book by Dr. Christine Montross, *A Body of Work*, which will be given to you by Pritzker. I heartily recommend its insight into your first year at medical school. (Dr. Montross will be the speaker at your White Coat Ceremony, so you will have a chance to meet her!)

Dr. Chris Straus from the Department of Radiology is organizing four faculty members from Radiology to give lectures on radiological anatomy, and 6-8 TAs to help you learn the radiological material, and Professor Mike Simon from the Department of Surgery has organized 24 surgeons to come and speak to you about their perspective on anatomy. These visitors not only provide wonderful insight into the use of anatomy in clinical practice, but provide opportunities for you to make contacts in disciplines of your interest.

You will soon have access to the Chalk site for the Human Body (chalk.uchicago.edu/). When you log in you should see the Human Body Course listed under **My Courses**. As a student you will have full access to download the material from this website. I ask that you refrain from distributing this material to anyone outside the course. If you would like to suggest changes to the site, or you find errors, please contact me (rossc@uchicago.edu).

Under **Course Documents** you will find a copy of the **Course Schedule** with the date, time and location of the lectures and labs. Under **Staff Information** you will find a list of all the contributors to the course with their contact information.

You will also find a folder called **Lectures**, within which are folders for all lectures in the Quarter. You will see that the readings for the lectures are already listed along with each lecture. If you have any problems downloading material, please contact Betty Katsaros (brkatsar@midway.uchicago.edu).

Lectures

For lectures, please be in the lecture hall ready to learn at the time they are scheduled to start. Please do the readings. It helps enormously if you do. Many students bring laptops with the lectures already downloaded and take notes in the Powerpoint file. You may record the lectures for your own use and that of your colleagues in your class. You may not distribute them otherwise. They are the intellectual property of the lecturers and the University of Chicago.

Laboratories

The material covered in lectures will be revisited in the dissection labs. Be prepared for labs by reading the dissector so you know what is coming. There are also movies online (prepared by Betty Katsaros) that give you some feel for what is to come. The embryology labs in the first week will involve study of human embryological material in digital form. Those labs will be posted shortly. There will be material to download to your computer.

Exams

There are seven exams in the course. The first one is 1 week into the course. You must pass every exam at 65% to pass the course. If you get less than a 65% on any exam you must retake it and get a 65% to pass. You must do this before the course starts in the following year or you will receive a failing grade. The staff of the Human Morphology Course will offer you ONE opportunity to retake each exam. If you fail the make-up exam that we offer, you will have to find another way of demonstrating competency that is acceptable to the Dean's Office and Committee on Promotions.

A few words of advice

The course is challenging but fair. Work hard and you will do well.
None of you will have taken a human anatomy dissection course before, so you're all in the same boat.

Get organized. Be prepared to hit the ground running. Keep up. Read ahead.
Ask for help. We're here to help you learn anatomy.

That's enough for now. You'll hear more from me than you want to over the coming few months! I look forward to seeing you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ross', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Callum F. Ross, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Organismal Biology & Anatomy
<http://rosslab.uchicago.edu/index.html>