

Student Comments from Spring Semester 2016

100% of those responding to the survey used materials made available through the microbiology web page regularly or often. Comments were:

I looked at the website almost everyday. I printed out the lecture notes and syllabus and all of the study guides/practice tests. I used the lecture and lab notes on the website often, but not often enough. Definitely go through them before the start of class, because all of the material is there and in a helpful format. Having a website is very beneficial especially since Professor Wilson updates it regularly. There is a wealth of written information on the website. It's fantastic. The only thing I would change is that there are relatively few pictures, diagrams, videos, etc. for describing the complex biological processes that this class discusses.

75% of those responding used the online versions of the lecture notes regularly, while 25% used them sometimes. Comments were:

I printed out the lecture notes and read them before class, highlighted them during lecture and then after would use it make flashcards on Quizlet. Use the online lecture notes as often as you can, because the information there is more concise and relevant than the textbook I rented. I made sure to print the notes out before lecture and would highlight the important concepts. These are really good notes if you need clarification, but I would not use them as my sole source of information, because they are very complex and not good introductory reading.

75% of students responding used the information provided in the laboratory syllabus regularly or often, while 25% rarely or never did (but should have). Comments were:

I bought the lab manual and did not need to use the syllabus. The procedures are well written.

87.5% of students responding used the microbiology study guide regularly, while 12.5% sometimes did. Comments were:

The quizzes are based off of these. Knowing what type of questions, and their format, is very helpful. Use the study guide as often as you can, because it really does help you understand what material you will be tested on. The study guide was the best tool to have and I used it on the daily basis. If you use one thing make sure it is the study guide. This is pretty much all I used to study for tests. I also used the Internet to look up definitions, try to find videos, etc.

75% of students responding used the online lecture syllabus regularly or often, while 12.5% sometimes did, and 12.5% never did. Comments were:

This summarizes the lecture notes and is a great go to for looking up key concepts quickly. Definitely use the online lecture syllabus as often as possible, especially if you're a self learner who gets more out of studying by yourself than being in class. All the information is there, and is laid out in a useful way. I bought lab syllabus at the bookstore, really wish this was available in the bookstore too.

The Spring 2016 students were not asked about their use of the textbook (Tortora, Funke & Case, Introduction to Microbiology), but most previous responders rarely or never used it. This text was not ordered through the bookstore this semester, but is available through Amazon.

If you could offer one piece of advice to students beginning this microbiology course, with this instructor, what would it be?

The most important thing for this class is to start studying from the beginning. After the lecture, go home and read the material, make flash cards and print the study guide for the lecture. Don't just read the study guide, print it and try answering the questions and check with the provided answer

keys. I used the study guide for each quiz and for the exams and it was worth it because I did not have any surprise questions. Don't hesitate to ask questions, although the class and the lab is in the evening, don't be lazy and try to get out early, spend time in the lab, ask questions and you will surely get the correct answer from the professor. It is not an easy class, but it is totally worth it and very possible to succeed if you just direct all your energy into it. And again: Use the study guide for Lecture exams and also for Lab exams and you'll do great! You have to study every single day. I looked at micro every day. Every single day. Read the lecture notes, over and over again, make flash cards (Quizlet, online flashcards, easy to make and takes less time, they have an app!) then once you know the key terms test yourself with the study guides. Sometimes questions from the study guides are on the quiz, just with different wording. This is an information-packed class. There is so much to know. You just really need to study and if you use the tools available you will get an A. In lab take notes. I took pictures of power points and then made notes after class. Don't put off studying or you will fail. There is not much room for error in this class. One bad grade on a high point test/project can ruin your chances for an A. Also as soon as something is assigned do it and turn it in right away because something else is always around the corner. All week long you will study for a quiz or if a test is coming up while working on homework or a project. Time management is crucial! Just study until your head explodes :) and then turn in everything done to the best of your ability ASAP to avoid falling behind. Considering I am an extreme visual learner, the most I could say is instead of mnemonics... there's already many words to remember... Maybe draw a picture to know what it means (the definition of something) ; although it's time consuming it makes it really understandable. Somehow all the drawings are able to fit the big picture. A lot of people have already stressed the importance of the online notes and the study guide, and they're right. Use the website as often as you can, because its the best way I found to learn the material effectively. Study all the time every day no matter what because if you fall behind there's no time to catch up. You need to study from the first day of class and everyday that will be the only way to succeed. Make flash cards and take them everywhere with you. The website helps a lot and you have to use it to your advantage. Try to memorize concepts that are taught in lecture. Also do not leave doing the physiologic unknowns or semester project to the very end. If you don't understand something make sure to ask questions and stay later after class. This course will take a lot of time so try not to take another course at the same time. Start your semester project right away. DO NOT WAIT until the last minute. Use the study guides, they have all the answers. Be present, even if you don't think you need to go to class, go! She may give critical information that will be on the test that is not in the study guide. Don't fall behind or it will screw you. Have fun! It is so interesting! Try to find videos and other resources outside of the class that help you understand complex processes talked about in class in your own way.

Aspects of this class the students found most beneficial and what they thought needed improvement were described as:

Very beneficial information about "normal microbiota/ flora", also, all the information about viruses, the use of antibiotics, antiseptics, immunization and much more. I don't think that it needs any improvements, probably it was too short of a time comparing with the volume of material. The study guides are the most beneficial. If it were not for these then I would not know where to begin studying, there is so much information. I found the online materials were the most helpful thing that helped me along the lectures and especially the labs. The lecture notes and practice quizzes are very helpful. I really liked the lab component, it seems very relevant and it's so hard to get real hands-on experience with career-type stuff at school. The most beneficial was the website and the study guide. Everything it set for the student to succeed you just need to know how to use the tools to your advantage. I found the labs the most beneficial. Actually doing what is said and not just reading about it helped me a bunch. I feel that the tests could be a little more easier, but they weren't that bad to begin with. I really liked the lab component, it seems very relevant and its so hard to get real hands-on experience with career-type stuff at school. Beneficial: physio-

logical testing, possible ways disease enters the body, creating media. Improvement: note taking, lectures should be slower that way it's possible to write them, so no one has to take picture or other things.

Did you feel the information presented or lessons learned in this class had direct application to you and your life? If so, what do you consider to be the most significant information you gained?

The lessons on bacteria/viral infections were very interesting and are going to be a helpful introduction for nursing school. Also cell structure and function and knowing how diseases affect the body at the cellular level. Never realized how much significance microbes holds till now. Since it's such a big aspect of life. I learned a lot about antibiotics and drug use and the benefits of normal flora. Towards the end when we learned about epidemiology, pathology, and immunization I found it to be more understandable and have a better understanding since it relates to my job in a sense. That not all bacteria are bad. I used to be so addicted to antibacterial products, but now that I've taken this class I know that it is completely normal and actually very good for your body to contain bacteria. Not all bacteria can harm you. I really want to become involved in biotechnology, so this class was very interesting to me. The only parts that I did not like were about hospitals and all the crazy stuff that goes on in those places.

What could this instructor have done to more successfully assist you in attaining your goals with respect to this class? Comments were:

I would say that maybe stress a bit more about the semester project in respect to the requirements. This is a hard class. I believe the instructor was helpful to the best of her ability. No question went unanswered. The only thing would be to check her email more to answer questions in between classes. Slow down on slides. Have more videos. Using hand gestures or "theatrical perspective" like maybe a dance move to a certain word so that way words that are spelled similar are easy to differentiate. Involve the class artistically, make them draw things out. (It helped me, drawing a picture that depicts a given definition) example: draw what you think a proton motive force looks like and what is involved. And then class is involved by sharing drawings on the board that way the teacher knows they are getting the material. (Assigned as homework or quick sketch in class). I think the teacher did a great job, and should continue to place importance on the lab manual and web site, because they really do help. I am happy with my goals for this class. Professor Wilson is amazing and has a great passion towards Microbiology. I loved that if I didn't understand a concept she would stay after class and further explain it to me. I think the instructor was great in assisting. She may seem aggravated at times, but she loves what she's doing and is always available for questions. Not much, she did a really wonderful job.