Dear “T-2s”,

I would like to introduce myself as your course director for the “Introduction to Infectious Diseases” course this year and give you a few details for the upcoming sessions.

Sessions will start on August 3rd with a 3-week ID/Immunology/Pharmacology block (this is different than the 2-week block in previous years, in case you are wondering). Handouts with information about the single sessions will be posted online on TmedWeb – these handouts will give you the info needed to prepare for classes. Please, have a look at these documents and their recommended reading material before every class!

Course structure

The course is set up in the following format: a three-week ID block at the beginning of the semester will introduce you to the basics of the organisms you will encounter time and again throughout the systems blocks during the remainder of the year. You will then periodically have IID sessions within the systems blocks with some blocks containing more IID material than others (for more details see the Syllabus).

The majority of lectures will be in an interactive format using a class-response system (clickers) to assess your level of understanding, as well as Peer Instruction/Discussion to maximize the classroom learning experience. Therefore I would like you to, please, bring your clickers to every session. Since we aim to make the sessions as interactive as possible with peer discussions and concept checks, we expect you to come prepared to get the most out of the sessions. Slides posted on TMW are the ‘abbreviated’ versions (no clicker questions/concept checks etc), with final versions being posted on Blackboard after the respective sessions. The sessions will be taped through MediaSite, but most of the 'interactiveness' will be 'lost in translation' on the recording.

Textbooks

The following is the highly recommended textbook that contains most of what is covered in the three week introductory part of the course and will be used for assigned reading:

- Rosenthal and Tan, Microbiology and Immunology 3rd ed., Rapid Review series; Elsevier Mosby (ca. $38.-). Purchase of a new book enables online access to its content and a USMLE CONSULT question bank. It is also available through the Matas Library website via “Clinical Key” (or go through: http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology).

- Consider the chapters that are assigned reading to be your in depth handouts – they are very condensed to what you absolutely need to know for Step1.

Other recommended books (these are helpful especially for the Systems blocks):

- A textbook that is particularly well written and illustrated is “Sherris Medical Microbiology”, Ryan and Ray, 6th ed., McGraw Hill. – This textbook is an excellent resource for more in-depth coverage of the material. The library has several copies and online access is available through Access Medicine on the Matas Library site (and through:
You will notice that we often recommend chapters from “the Sherris”. If you find the recommended Review book too dry and ‘unexciting’ to read, this is the book for you.

- **Microbiology – Lippincott’s Illustrated Reviews, 3rd. Ed.** Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott. Purchase of this book enables online access to its content and a question bank. This book is very well written for a review book and has excellent graphics to illustrate certain concepts. The library has hard copies, and if you google it you might find a free pdf of the book online.

- Most handouts will also list a reference to the following textbook: “Review of Medical Microbiology and Immunology” by Levinson, 13th ed. It is available through the Matas Library website via “Access Medicine” (or go through: [http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology](http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology)).

- A textbook that is especially suitable for the systems blocks is “Mims' Medical Microbiology“ by Richard Goering, 5th ed., Elsevier. Purchase of a new book enables online access to its content and a USMLE CONSULT question bank. It is also available through the Matas Library website via “Clinical Key” (or go through: [http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology](http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology)).

- In recent years, we also used “Murray, Rosenthal, Pfaller, Medical Microbiology”. Purchase of this book enables online access to its content. The library has several older copies and the newest edition is available through “Clinical Key” (or go through: [http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology](http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology)). This is another excellent resource for information on Infectious Diseases.

- **Nester, Anderson, Roberts – Microbiology, A Human Perspective, 7th ed.,** McGraw Hill. This textbook is an excellent resource, especially for more integrated curricula. It contains excellent graphics and review questions are provided for each chapter. The library currently has one copy on hand.

- **Cowan – Microbiology, A Systems Approach, 3rd ed.,** McGraw Hill. Just like the ‘Nester’, this textbook is an excellent resource, especially for more integrated curricula. It, too, contains excellent graphics and review questions are provided for each chapter. The library currently has one copy on hand.

- A word about “Clinical Microbiology Made Ridiculously simple”: we are aware that this is a popular textbook and is used by many. We didn’t recommend this book in the past, since it contained numerous errors and oversimplifies certain topics. However, the latest edition (6th) has eliminated some of these errors and if you find this book helpful for understanding certain concepts, by all means, carry on. Just bear in mind that you might have to cross-check some of the information with the reference material recommended for the course.

- Most of these books can be accessed through the link posted on the IID TMedWeb site, called ‘library guides’ ([http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology](http://libguides.tulane.edu/immunology))
**Question banks:**
Some of the books listed below give you access to question banks if purchased. You also have access to question banks through the Matas Library. Please, refer to the Syllabus for detailed information on where to find question banks relevant for IID.

**Question, problems, concerns?**
I encourage you to contact me right away with problems you encounter during the course so that we can make this a better learning experience for all of us. For any questions, please contact your owl club reps or me via email (khonerzu@tulane.edu), phone (988-4609) or directly in the classroom.

A **Syllabus** with more detailed information is posted on TMedWeb. Please, read it since it contains more detailed information and most likely will answer most of the questions you might have about the course.

Looking forward to meeting you soon,

“Dr. H”

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