

Course Syllabus for Systemic Pathology DDS 6254 Fall, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COURSE DIRECTOR:

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Course website: DentalStudentPathology.com

COURSE PURPOSE

Systemic Pathology provides students with a basic understanding of the causes, mechanisms, and effects of human disease in all organ systems. After finishing this course, students will understand how diseases impact patients, and will be able to modify treatment and care accordingly. Students will also be able to recognize common oral manifestations of systemic diseases in order to provide more complete patient care. This course is preceded by the General Pathology course (DDS 6253) given in the DDS2 summer semester.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Be able to recognize oral manifestations of systemic diseases such as leukemia and lupus. Many diseases have manifestations in the oral cavity; dentists may be able to identify such lesions early in the disease course, before the patient seeks medical care.
2. Understand how common diseases, such as heart disease and emphysema, may impact the health of your patients. A knowledge of the medical implications of these diseases will help you safely manage your patients – and will deepen your understanding of your patients as a whole.
3. Be familiar with the purpose and practical usage of commonly ordered laboratory tests (such as hemoglobin and liver function tests). This is important for general knowledge and for boards.
4. Understand the etiology of common medical conditions (e.g., the risk factors for atherosclerosis). Your patients may listen to you more attentively than they do their physicians.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED BY COURSE

Major competencies:

- 1.4 Recognizing the manifestations of systemic disease and how the disease and its management may affect the delivery of oral health care.

Minor competencies:

- 2.2 Communicating and collaborating with other members of the health care team to facilitate the provision of health care and health promotion.
- 3.3 Recognizing the importance of maintaining professional growth and life-long learning.

REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS

The optional textbook for this course is Kumar V, et al (eds): Robbins Basic Pathology, 10th ed., Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 2017.

All lecture PowerPoints, as well as lecture videos, practice quizzes, assorted interesting stuff, and a link to current grades, are on our course website at: DentalStudentPathology.com.

CREDITS

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GRADING AND EVALUATION POLICIES

There are three quizzes and three exams in this course. The point scores of the quizzes and examinations will be added together to give a single numerical score for the course, and grades will be determined as follows:

A = scores greater than or equal to 90%

B = scores between 80% and 90%

C = scores between 70% and 80%

Scores below 70% will be considered failing.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students' evaluation of the course and the participating faculty are considered to be a mandatory requirement for the successful completion of this course and are used to help improve the course each year. Students will be required to complete evaluations on line (using CoursEval) before a grade will be given in this course.

GRADE DISPUTES

Grade disputes will follow University and SOD policies listed in the student handbook. All grade disputes must first be addressed to the course director.

REMEDIATION POLICIES

Students who receive a failing grade may be offered remediation, which may consist of a remedial examination for the course. All student failures are reviewed by the Scholastic Standing Committee and the ultimate decision for remediation for students in academic difficulty lies with that committee. If a remediation process is recommended and successfully completed, the highest grade that can be earned in the course is a C-.

MAKE-UP MISSED ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENTS PROCESS

Students are expected to take examinations at the scheduled times. If a student has an excused absence for missing an exam (illness, family emergency, etc.) a make-up examination will be provided.

ATTENDANCE

Please contact the Office of Student Affairs regarding requests for excused absences. The School of Dentistry attendance policy may be found on the student intranet.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

- **Scholastic Dishonesty** – Cheating on written examinations, assignments or practical examinations or engaging in unauthorized collaboration on any academic work.
- **Plagiarism** – presenting the scholarly work of another as one's own.
- **Dishonesty** – of any type
- **Falsifying or Forging** – attempts to forge or falsify patient records and charts, classroom attendance, or student pre-clinical and clinical records.
- **Misrepresenting** – presenting someone else's project or clinical work as one's own.

Consequences of misconduct will be determined by the Code of Conduct Hearing Board and may include as examples: failure of assignments/examinations, failure of the course, retaking of examination or project, etc.

COMMUNICATION

All individual and full class email communications will be through your University of Minnesota e-mail account. Announcements intended for the whole class will be posted on DentalStudentPathology.com (and then emailed to you). It is a requirement of the course to check your e-mail daily. While in class, please silence all pagers and cellular phones.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

The University of Minnesota views disability as an important aspect of diversity, and is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

- If you have, or think you have, a disability in any area such as, mental health, attention, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical, please contact the DRC office on your campus (UM Twin Cities - 612.626.1333) to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

- Students with short-term disabilities, such as a broken arm, can often work with instructors to minimize classroom barriers. In situations where additional assistance is needed, students should contact the DRC as noted above.
- If you are registered with the DRC and have a disability accommodation letter dated for this semester or this year, please contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.
- If you are registered with the DRC and have questions or concerns about your accommodations, please contact your access consultant.

Additional information is available on the DRC website: <https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/> or email drc@umn.edu

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via www.mentalhealth.umn.edu.

Developed and endorsed by the Provost's Committee on Student Mental Health, June 2006

WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR DENTAL STUDENTS

The Minnesota Dentist Wellness Program offers a consulting and counseling service to help Minnesota dentists and dental student members with the many stressors that impact their lives and their practice of dentistry. Sand Creek is a service offered free of charge to dental students. Help is available by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-632-7643. Face-to-face help is also offered through a counseling and consulting network with over 500 offices in Minnesota.

APPROPRIATE STUDENT USE OF CLASS NOTES:

Students may not distribute, via internet, social media, or other means, instructor-provided lecture notes or other instructor provided materials except to other students within the school of dentistry programs without the express consent of instructor.

CHANGES MADE IN RESPONSE TO STUDENT FEEDBACK

In response to student feedback, the course continues to utilize the DentalStudentPathology.com website as its course website.

FACULTY INFORMATION

Faculty involved in the course include:

Kristine Krafts, M.D. (Course Director) – kkrafts@umn.edu

Ioannas Koutlas, D.D.S – koutl001@umn.edu