



MY EVALUATION

At the end of each semester you, the students, get to evaluate me, the professor. This is a good thing because I learn a lot from the evaluation process. I take from your feedback the things that help me better serve you. But, what if the tables were turned, so the professor, me, could evaluate the students, you. Would you also learn from the process? Well, let's give it a try. Here are some thoughts I would share with students.

What do you see as student's strengths?

I like students who want to learn, students who open their mind to the possibilities, students who do not set limits on learning based on their own perception of what is important. Universities are learning environments and my course is designed for the student who is willing to open his or her mind to learning anatomy. I also like students who are not afraid to approach me, because that is how they can share concerns, ask for advice, and get questions cleared up. I also recognize that each student is an individual with differing abilities and backgrounds. The learning in this course will come easier to some, yet will be difficult for others. It is important to realize, however, that I am willing to help any student learn anatomy. Even though there are many students in a big lecture hall, you can reduce the student to teacher ratio to one-on-one at any time, simply come by and talk with me personally. Never be afraid to ask a question, for that is how you learn.

What do you see as student's weaknesses?

I often see students convince themselves that they cannot learn anatomy or that they cannot do well in the class. They never give themselves a chance and they doom themselves to failure before they even start. Overcome this by not worrying about the grade, instead be interested in learning and let learning take care of the grade. Also, don't listen to the rumors. I hear students say that you have to take anatomy two or three times to do well. This is the farthest thing from the truth. Here are the results for the past ten years:

9,171 students took the anatomy course,

1,837 students received A grades,

that is 20% of the class in the A range,

of those A students, only 18 out of 1,837 were repeats.

So I think it is evident that if you are willing to work hard that you can succeed. Start the course convinced that you will excel, because it is very possible to do well. **Finally, do not fall behind. Falling behind, more than anything else, can lead quickly to your demise.** If you honestly follow the program that I have set up for you, you can and will learn anatomy and succeed in the course.

Also, do not try to predict what is important for an exam. Everything I teach is important and I want you to learn it, otherwise why would I teach it? I often hear students say, "The test did not cover what we covered in class." Unfortunately, those students are just covering up for their lack of preparation, because all my tests come directly from the lecture material. But realize that anything I lecture on is fair game. So do not try to predict what is important, just learn everything covered in the lecture. And once again, believe me when I say this can be done, as is attested to by the 20% of the students who achieved a grade in the A range over the past ten years.

What would you change about students?

First, I would encourage students not to compare themselves with others. Just get excited about learning and do your best. That is all you can do. Not every student is going to receive an A, for some students a B or a C will be a good grade. The most important thing is that you learn from the process. Second, I would like to see students not be afraid to talk with their professors. Approach them, ask questions, and tell them about your concerns. The only way I can help you is if you come to me and ask. My door is always open, I don't bite, I can help, and believe it or not, I understand more than you think, for I was once where you are now.