The Relationship between Final Grades and Absenteeism

- a study in the Human Anatomy & Physiology I class.

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Why Did I Do This Study?

- First day of class – syllabus
- No attendance policy for laboratory or lecture
- Encourage students to come
- Anecdotally know that students who do not come do not do well
Do Students Who Do Not Come to Class Really Do Worse?

- Analyzed attendance data and final grade %
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I (Bio 150)
- three Fall semesters (2010, 2011, 2012)
- n=187 students
Do Students Who Do Not Come to Class Really Do Worse? RESULTS

Final Grade (%) vs % Absence from Class

n = 187
Do Students Who Do Not Come to Class Really Do Worse? RESULTS

Final Grade (%) vs % Absence from Class

Final Grade

A
B
C
D
F

n= 187
Show the Students...

57 class and lab Meetings
- Mon, Wed, Fri, 50 min
- Lab 2hrs per week

% Absence Averages

Final Letter Grade
Why Don’t Students Come to Class?\textsuperscript{1,4}

**Time**
- Poor Organization
- Other responsibilities
- Overwhelmed
- ???

**Motivation**
- Lack of Interest
- Not Important
- Don’t See the Value
- Low Self-worth
- ???
There is evidence that some compulsory attendance policies do not work very well\(^1\)

**WHY NOT?**

- Diminished interest
- Reduced engagement
- Loss of control
- LESS VALUE
- LESS MOTIVATION
Why do Students come to Class?\textsuperscript{1, 2, 3}

- Voluntary
- Valuable
- Requisite
- Important
- Help
- Interesting
- ???

Voluntary

1. Voluntary
2. Valuable
3. Requisite
4. Important
5. Help
6. Interesting
7. ???
How Can We Encourage Students to Come to Class?

**Time**
- Teach relevant organizational skills
- Be understanding and flexible when possible
- Direct them to other resources
- ???

**Motivation**
- Show how material relates to self and career
- Explicitly state relevance of material to their goals
- Encourage and use student input in class
- Have frequent contact and conferences, encouragement
Some Example Activities

**Importance:** Use real world examples and activities to show the relevance to their field (i.e., case studies)

**Organization:** Show how to use a grid to help them organize an essay, put a timeline on completion

**Value:** Have students work to create some of their test questions

**What works for you?**
Sources:


Helpful Resources?