

	Department of Kinesiology And Health Sciences KIN 3085 --- 3 Units
PATHOLOGY OF INJURY AND ILLNESS -- Fall 2026	

[Download Course Syllabus Here](#)

Course Instructor: Emily Drinkward, PA-C Email: edrinkwa@pointloma.edu	Meeting times: Friday, 1:20 - 3:50 pm Meeting location: KIN 1
Teaching Assistant: Elizabeth Satterlee	Format: In Person
Final Exam: Monday, Dec 14th 1:30-4:30 pm	Office Hours: By appointment

PLNU MISSION ☼

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"Pathology of Injury and Illness" (KIN 3085) is a hybrid between science and medicine.

The course primarily explores the pathophysiologies (mechanisms) that govern various diseases. While this course delves into topics organ-system by organ-system, there is a high degree of bridging concepts across the systems. Therefore, an overall broad understanding of normal human physiology is required. Also, because of the science background needed in this course, it is not uncommon for this class to tie in concepts from other scientific disciplines, such as biochemistry, microbiology, or genetics. So re-familiarizing with some concepts from old coursework or even looking up unfamiliar concepts will be

important.

Additionally, this course is unique in that a large portion of the material will be presented from a clinical perspective from an angle of real-life patient encounters. This train of thought is not easily taught via textbooks. For many of the diseases discussed, risk factors, signs, symptoms, physical exam findings, differential diagnoses, diagnostic modalities, lab tests, and basic management plans will be explored. Many common diseases encountered frequently in real life will be emphasized. Although medical knowledge has no boundaries, this course will familiarize students with the basic "language" used in hospitals and other clinical settings.

We hope to provide a strong foundation of knowledge for the future! Importantly, this class is meant to be fun and enlightening! So enjoy!

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Learn scientific and medical terms commonly used in health care settings
2. Describe the pathological mechanisms of human diseases
3. Be familiar with the common and life-threatening disorders related to each major organ system
4. For certain diseases, be familiar with common history and physical exam findings
5. For certain diseases, be able to come up with differential diagnoses (i.e. common possibilities and mimics)
6. For certain diseases, be able to choose lab tests and imaging modalities that would rule in or rule out the differential diagnoses
7. For certain diseases, be able to describe basic management plans
8. Given a common chief complaint (e.g. chest pain), derive a list of possible conditions
9. Understand pharmacological mechanisms against certain diseases
10. Better prepare for success in medical settings and gain a broad sense of what the medical profession entails
11. Learn how to verbally communicate medical cases with other healthcare professionals
12. Enhance problem solving skills via information gathering and data interpretation
13. Establish a strong foundation for graduate level coursework related to science and/or medicine
14. Keep up to date with medicine using journal article(s) in medical/scientific literature
15. Overall increase literacy in health care to take command of the health of you and your loved ones

Optional Texts and Recommended Study Resources

McConnell, T. H. (2014). The Nature of Disease: Pathology for the health professions (2nd ed.). Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

Diseases & Conditions - Medscape Reference. <https://emedicine.medscape.com/>

This textbook is optional, as the readings are supplemental to the course.

eMedicine is a highly recommended free medical website with evidence-based information. This is a great resource for understanding diseases in greater detail than what is covered in class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request. (Based on 37.5 hours of student engagement per credit hour.)

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. **Timeliness:** Arrive on time for each class. Consistent punctuality is crucial for maintaining the flow of the course and ensuring that all material is covered effectively.
2. **Respect:** Show respect for fellow students and instructors. This includes listening attentively, contributing constructively to discussions, and valuing diverse perspectives.
3. **Assignments:** Submit all assignments by the specified deadlines. See Late Work Policy below.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

1. Unit Exams: 60% of total grade. Three exams total. Consisting of a mixture of scenario based multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. These will not be cumulative and will cover material discussed in class for that unit. Make-up examinations are permitted if discussed ahead of time with the instructor. Unexcused absences will result in a zero on that exam.
2. Weekly Quizzes: 25% of total grade. Nine total. Consisting of scenario based multiple choice questions. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. Make-up quizzes will only be permitted on a case by case basis. Unexcused absences will result in a zero on that quiz, no make ups permitted. Quizzes will begin promptly at the beginning of class. Quiz answers are discussed immediately after each quiz, so make up quizzes are not permitted unless discussed with Prof. Drinkward before class begins.
3. Case Studies: 15% of total grade. Three total. Due before each Unit Exam. Work through a chief complaint of your choosing from that unit and answer the questions regarding the patient scenario that you created. You will be creating a patient case based on your knowledge of the

disease and how it presents. Address all questions to get full credit.

Extra Credit Policy:

- Case Study Presentations: This is a class-wide extra credit opportunity to present one of your graded case studies to the class as if you are the patient. The class will ask you questions, work through diagnostic tests to order, and come up with a diagnosis. This will be for a total of 5 extra credit points that will go towards your lowest exam score at the end of the semester. This is an optional opportunity, but is first-come, first-served.
- There will be various opportunities for extra credit throughout the course:
 - Each weekly quiz will have 2 points of extra credit
 - There will be various extra credit points available on Exams as well
 - Any other extra credit will be given as an opportunity for the whole class. Individual extra credit opportunities will not be given.
 - IDEA survey as extra credit if the entire class completes it (100% participation)

Late Work Policy: Unexcused late work will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on that assignment. No partial points will be given. Excused late assignments/quizzes/exams will only be granted for students who have family emergencies or have school related extracurricular activities such as traveling for sports, chapel duties, etc. Quizzes and exams cannot be taken early unless there is an anticipated absence for school related reasons.

Letter of Recommendation: If you are requesting a letter of recommendation, I will need at least 2 months notice. Letters of recommendation are only given to students who finish the course with a letter grade of A- or better.

Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages

A	B	C	D	F
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A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Final Examination PolicyⓈ

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

State Authorization Ⓢ

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy Ⓢ

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Recording NotificationⓈ

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy Ⓢ

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as

one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Behavior Policy⊗

Both faculty and students at Point Loma Nazarene University have the right to expect a safe and ordered environment for learning. Students are expected to take the initiative to learn and conduct themselves in a mature and civil manner in the classroom environment. Any student behavior that is disruptive or threatening is a serious affront to Point Loma Nazarene University as a learning community. Students who fail to adhere to these behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from class or further university sanctions. For a full definition of disruptive behavior, response procedures, and the appeal process, please consult the [Academic Behavior Policy](#) in the [University Catalog](#).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy *

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) to generate ideas, as a learning tool, or in some cases generate portions of work you will submit. I will specify in individual assignments what constitutes appropriate use of AI for that assignment. Please use this [Purdue resource](#) to guide your citations when using AI.

Additionally, many AI are not allowed to give medical advice, so this may prove unhelpful if you are trying to use it for homework assignments.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy ⊗

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center, [by email](#) or phone at 619-849-2533. Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines approved accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC eligibility process. This is to protect the privacy of

students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

Language and Belonging *

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) has experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources via the [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination *

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the [Title IX Office](#). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the [Title IX Office](#).

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact [Counseling Services](#) or [consult the list of campus pastors](#).

If you (or someone you know) has experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via the [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy](#).

PLNU Attendance and Participation PolicyⓈ

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

PLNU Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction is fully online.

- a. Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 - b. Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.
2. Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
3. In-Person Courses: These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).

In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered asynchronously and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

Use of Technology ☼

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the **Technology and System Requirements** (<https://help.pointloma.edu/TDCClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349>) information.

Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

Lomabooks Instructions for Students ☼:

For both digital and print materials, please add these student instructions to your syllabus and Canvas Course. Prior to the start of class, the PLNU Bookstore will also be sharing student instructions in a standalone email on how to access their content.

This course is part of our course material delivery program, [LomaBooks](#). The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your [LomaBooks](#) materials.

Assignments At-A-Glance/Canvas Course Summary ☼

Note: Faculty are required to either create assignments in Canvas so that there is a record by the end of the semester OR list the assignments in the syllabus to support the Records office in dealing with possible transfer credit, etc. In the Canvas syllabus function, please use the Show Course Summary checkbox to create a course schedule. Then cut and past the schedule into the syllabus you provide for the Assessment website.