

BIPN 194C--Senior seminar: The Physiology of Pregnancy

Dr. Kathy French

kfrench@ucsd.edu

858-534-5938

Pregnancy is a complex physiological and biochemical interaction between two separate and distinct organisms. In this seminar, we'll discuss several aspects of this unique condition. In the seminar format, one or more people speak on a selected topic, and then there is a period for discussion of the topic. This course will, thus, give you practice using primary literature to learn about a topic, telling other students about that topic, and leading a discussion about what you have presented.

Here is how this course will proceed.

1. The basic (VERY basic) book in the course is *Making Babies*, by David Bainbridge. In addition, a copy of the text from last year's Human Reproduction course will be on Course Reserves. (It's *Human Reproductive Biology*, 3rd edition, by Jones and Lopez.) If you find books that you think should be added to Course Reserves, let me know and I'll send a request.
2. Each student will give a presentation and help to lead a discussion of his or her chosen topic. Grades will be based on the presentation and on participation in the class when other students are .
3. The only way for the class to work is if students come to class. As a result, attendance is mandatory, and each week you must be sure that you initial the attendance form. (Each student can miss one meeting without penalty, but no more.)
4. There will be a course Web site soon. On the Thursday before you present, you need to send me the information that will allow all of the rest of the students to find and read ONE GOOD reference. I'll post the reference information on the Web site, and students in the class will be responsible for reading through the references for the next week's presentations so they can discuss the topic intelligently.

~~~~~

### Here's an approximate schedule for this course:

Week 1: Organizing the schedule, and considering how you can find credible information.

Week 2: Effective use of Power Point, convention for bibliographies in this course.

Weeks 3 through 10: Student presentations.

~~~~~

Potential topics (but ask about your own particular interests):

In vitro fertilization--how done? Good idea?

Endocrinology of pregnancy

Implantation and function of the placenta

Cardiovascular changes in pregnancy

Fetal physiology (adaptations for life *in utero*)

Pathophysiology of pregnancy:

Pregnancy with more than one fetus

toxemia, pre-eclampsia, diabetes

Parturition (the birth process)

Teratogenesis (drugs, toxins, etc.)