

General Information for Students in Professor Kuhn's Classes

Contacting your instructor

If you need to email me about something follow the instructions for using my email at [Email contact information](#). Email is the best method for most situations. It is perfectly fine to call me at work (205 733 6900 between 8:00 and 4:00). My home phone number is 823-1555. At the house I use an answering machine to fight the deluge of solicitations and wrong numbers. Leave a message and if I hear that it is a student I will always pick the phone up. Otherwise, leave a number where I can call you. **Be sure to state the number twice so I can get all the digits right.** It also helps if you state your name again at the end of the message - sometimes the phone connection is noisy and I cannot make out the name. I emphasize this because there have been several occasions when I was unable to get in touch with a student who called. Sometimes the stupid answering machine I have will cut you off in the middle of your message. Some noises on the phone line fake it into thinking you have hung up. If this happens just try again. Sometimes you cannot tell that it happened. I always return calls from students so if you do not hear from me, please try again.

Class cancellations

Although it is very rare, it is possible that I might not be able to teach one evening. It is also possible that I might have to make a business trip. I will email the class as soon as I know. Once in a while weather conditions make it questionable if class should be held. The official source if classes are canceled is WBHM, 90.3 MHz. But if classes have not been canceled but major roads are closed or are treacherous then it is very possible that I cannot make it. I live in the southern end of Vestavia Hills close to I-459. As the name says, the region is very hilly. If the roads are icy then there is no way I can get out. In such an event, I will email the class assuming I have power to run the computer. Feel free to call if you have any doubt. It would be good if students have some kind of network system so that every student does not have to call.

If I am missing from class and you have not received an email from me then it is very probable that I am stuck in traffic on I-65 North from Vestavia to Birmingham as there is the occasional wreck that brings everything to a halt. Check any sources you have for traffic information. I will arrive as soon as I can (I use a number of detours) and we will make the best of what time is left in class and I can hang around after class to answer questions, etc.

Copying, sharing, selling or purchasing academic work

My good students should not worry about any of the following. I have no problem with them. There has been a trend in the last couple of years of too much sharing or outright copying labs and other assignments presumably for some kind of compensation -- not

General Information for Students in Professor Kuhn's Classes

necessarily money. In some cases a fictitious sad story is used to justify the need. In other cases it is just a pure transaction. If a student is having any kind of real problem they need to see me. You can not and should not help. I always help legitimate cases. Do not under any circumstances sell or give your work to someone else for any kind of compensation -- there is more to life than being a prostitute. Selling work is also academic misconduct that could prove costly to you. There are a number of crap students who are buying and cheating their way through school. They give the school a very bad name when they are found to be incompetent by the unlucky employer who hired them. Thus, anyone from UAB is hence viewed with suspicion. These crap students should have been flunked out prior to my class but somehow they are getting through. I have a responsibility to the State of Alabama and to the good students in my class to fail them. Any help you give or sell to them makes my job harder. Be wary of allowing another student to tag along in your lab group. Crap students have no intention of doing any real work and would gladly freeload off of you and others -- anything they submit for the lab report very probably came from some other group -- that could be costly to the group members -- see the new policy. Be sure you know your lab partners well as I have known cases in the past of one lab partner secretly relaying good work to crap students -- do not let one person in the group to cause your grade to be lower -- see the new policy below. In the past only the purchaser received the zero when I discovered copying. ***The new policy is both sellers and purchasers receive zeros*** as I no longer have the time to sort out who did the original work and the new policy should radically reduce problem anyway. In grading a set of papers it is normal for certain technical and structural similarities to exist as the work everyone is doing is the same -- that alone is not evidence of cheating. Blatant cheating is simple to spot and I am amazed at those who think I am stupid enough not to see it. Craftier forms of cheating are generally not crafty enough. Enough subtle correlations remain to arouse suspicion -- a super giveaway is when errors match -- that overrides the most crafty efforts at concealing the copying. Once suspicion is aroused then it is over -- guilt is certain to follow. In addition to my own observations I do receive occasional tips (which I always keep secret) about situations that should receive extra scrutiny. The tip would never convict anyone but the results of my own investigation could.