

Covid Policies as of Spring 2022

Dear Students,

Welcome back to a new semester! I hope everyone is happy and healthy. Unfortunately, as much as we would like it to be over, Covid-19 is still with us and likely to remain with us for the academic year. Pericles is implementing the following policies for the Spring 2022 semester. These will remain in effect until further notice:

- 1) All courses are available online on Zoom and many classes are available in bimodal format (meaning you can choose to come to class or attend online).
 - a. Pericles has purchased additional equipment and is making every effort to ensure that attending online will be as good an experience as possible for those who wish to do so. But please understand that bimodal classes are challenging to administer from a technical standpoint. There may be times when remote students may have difficulty hearing and being heard.
 - b. We recommend to students coming to study in person to bring laptops or tablets to better be able to interact with students online, although in most cases a smart phone should work fine.
 - c. If a course regularly has 3 or fewer students attending in person, we reserve the option to only provide classes online.
 - d. Pericles may change this attendance policy if the Covid-19 situation in Moscow worsens.
- 2) Health Requirements
 - a. If you are ill with any type of respiratory infection whatsoever (coughing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat), or have a fever, you must attend class online rather than in person. If, in the opinion of the professor, you appear to have a respiratory illness, the professor can send you home.
 - b. Provided that you are not ill with any type of respiratory infection and do not have a fever, to attend class in person one or more of the following must be true:
 - i. You have been vaccinated against Covid-19 within the past year;
 - ii. You have recovered from Covid-19 within the past six months (doctor's certification is not needed);
 - iii. You have taken a PCR or rapid test (home tests are OK) within the past 72 hours and the result is negative; or

- iv. You have taken an antibody test in the past six months showing that you have high immune markers; or
 - c. We do not currently require to see a QR code to join the class in person. .
- 3) Pericles will try to have some Covid-19 rapid tests available for purchase in our office if you do not currently meet the above requirements and want to take a test before class to join in person. We charge for these tests what we had to pay for them, (which, at the time of this writing, is 3000 rubles per test). But Pericles is not entitled to offer any official certificate based on these tests, and we don't guarantee the availability of any test kits on any particular class day. To ensure that a test is available, please call and ask before you come.
- 4) Pericles will be mainly functioning on the honor system and asking you to sign that you meet these requirements when you come to class.
 - a. We will not be regularly checking vaccination certificates or other evidence of eligibility to attend class in person unless the Covid situation in Moscow starts to require it. In that case we might ask you to upload your proof of eligibility to Moodle before coming to class.
 - b. However, even though we may not be checking, I personally ask that you be honest about your vaccination status, and if you have not yet been vaccinated, do so, for the sake of your health and the health of your classmates and teachers. Even if you aren't worried about becoming ill yourself, you can still inadvertently infect others. Widescale vaccination is the only realistic way to end this pandemic in the near future.
- 5) Wearing masks over both nose and mouth whenever in the public areas of the building is mandatory for students, professors and administrators.
 - a. Professors are allowed not to wear masks when they deliver lectures.
 - b. Whether students are required to wear masks in the classroom is at the discretion of the professor. Please respect the professor's decision on that point, and we urge you to wear a mask if you can comfortably do so, even if the professor does not mandate it.
 - c. If the professor has a masks-on policy and you are not wearing a mask over both your nose and mouth, professors and administrators have the right to ask you to properly put on a mask, get a mask in the Pericles office, or leave class. They may call the guards to remove you from class if you do not do this voluntarily.
 - d. If you don't have a mask, Pericles will have masks available at the reception desk, although we don't guarantee availability on any particular day.
- 6) Social distancing is required in the building.
 - a. Please do not shake hands.
 - b. Please keep a distance of 1.5 meters from your colleagues whenever you are seated or standing around talking.

- c. In class, if in a classroom with a standard lecture format for chairs, please maintain two empty seats between you and your nearest horizontal neighbor, and sit in every other row of chairs.
- 7) The building entrance has a body temperature check point, and you will not be admitted to the building with a temperature 38 or over. You will also not be admitted without a mask on. Gloves are optional, but if not wearing gloves you should use the hand sanitizers available at the building entrance and at various places around the building.
 - 8) Pericles regular policy about the numbers of allowed absences continues to be a maximum of $\frac{1}{4}$ of missed classes unless the professor allows otherwise. Anyone missing $\frac{1}{2}$ or more of the classes will not obtain credit or a certificate for the course.
 - a. Being present in class means being present either in person or online with your camera on and ability to participate audibly.
 - b. Online attendance is expected to be synchronous with class time so that you can participate in class discussion and exercises. If you cannot attend class synchronously, you should talk to your professors about their attendance policies and whether they will allow asynchronous attendance as an exception. The attendance policy is usually listed in the course syllabus, but talk with your professor to clarify any special circumstances you may have.
 - c. Classes will be recorded so that students who cannot attend or have connection difficulties can listen to the class later, but this does not substitute for regular synchronous class attendance. Whether asynchronous attendance can make up an absence is at the professor's discretion. To preserve students' privacy, class recordings will be deleted a few weeks after the course is over.
 - d. If you have connection problems and cannot use your camera, Professors may waive the camera requirement, but may require you to perform additional work to prove that you were present and attentive.
 - e. If you become ill and cannot attend either online or in person, and you have a doctor's certificate evidencing this, Pericles will waive the minimum attendance requirement provided you can watch the lectures online and complete the professor's requirements for additional work to ensure that you learned the material. If you miss so much that it's impossible to make up for lack of attendance, Pericles will allow you to move your registration to the next time the class is offered with no loss of tuition fees.

I understand that these policies might seem inconvenient for some of you, but people have varying health concerns. We aim for everyone to feel safe during their studies and finish the semester in good health, both physically and mentally.

Thank you for your attention. Dean Dent