Course Policy

Weighting of exams and graded exercises

1st Progressive Exam.................. 24%
1st Lab Practical (Labs 1 -4) ........ 10%
2nd Progressive Exam............... 24%
Lab case studies.....................  3%
2nd Lab practical (Labs 5 - 10)....... 15%
3rd Progressive Exam...............  24%

Grade adjustments on exams:

In cases where the student takes exception with the marking of an exam based on content, he or she is invited to submit a written rebuttal along with a copy of the graded question(s) to the Course Director (Dr. Farrell) within one week of the time that exams are returned after grading. These rebuttals will be reviewed by the faculty, and students will be informed in due course of the action taken on their request for grade adjustment. Simple errors in computing total points awarded on exams should be brought to the attention of the Course Director as soon as possible.

Comments on written final exam:

Is it comprehensive? You'll note that lectures 29-35 concentrate on clinical parasitisms from a host-oriented viewpoint. These lectures assume a working knowledge of the life cycles and biology of the parasites in question gleaned from the first portion of the course. The last written exam will stress material from these lectures but will also have some specific questions on the parasites listed in the clinical competency requirement for this course. In particular, you may be asked about how these parasites are transmitted, to explain how infections with these parasites are diagnosed, and to explain the role of these parasites as agents or vectors of disease.

The last 2 laboratories are a review of the parasites you learned about this year presented in a host-oriented manner. Thus, the second lab exam will be comprehensive, but will concentrate on material on which you have yet to be tested (Labs 5-8). Approximately 80 to 90% of the second lab exam will be devoted to labs 5 – 8, and any questions from the first set of labs will be restricted to “Checklist” material.
Adjuncts to course material:

Note service: Course faculty generally support the student note service, and individual faculty members may agree to correct drafts of lecture transcripts. However, in extending this courtesy, faculty members do not assume responsibility for the content of the transcripts, and note service notes do not constitute an official record of the course content.

Presentations by non-faculty speakers: Frequently, representatives from the pharmaceutical industry make presentations outside of class time on applications of their products to parasite control, and these presentations may include basic background information on parasite biology or parasitic disease. This material has not necessarily been reviewed or endorsed by the Faculty in Parasitology at Penn, and is not a part of the curriculum of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Web-based Course Resources
Core Parasitology – VPTH 603 – Fall 2009

Parasites and Parasitic Diseases of Domestic Animals:

Parasitology Lab and Life Cycles: http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/parasit06/website/

This web site incorporates the laboratory handouts, review slides, the cards and images of the specimens that are set out in each lab as demonstrations and a life cycle review site that is intended to reinforce important principles in the diagnosis, epidemiology, pathology, and treatment and control of selected parasites of significance in veterinary medicine. Includes a few quizzes and some review questions similar to the ones seen during the lab.

Also a Glossary giving definitions of terms used in the course and in parasitology texts is part of this site. If you wish a term added to the Glossary, just email it to parasit@vet.upenn.edu.

Diagnosis of Veterinary Endoparasitic Infections:
http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/projects/dxendopar/index.html

A review of lab and lecture material broken down by host - has a few quizzes, also a good reference for 4th year clinics or veterinary practice.

Course Materials: http://inside.vet.upenn.edu/?app=coursematerials/ Site on which announcements, quiz and exam answers, lab assignments, etc are posted.
Case Studies: When working on the case studies you will be tempted to use Goggle® to find some answers. Just be aware that there is as much misinformation as good information out there. Try to stick to sites listed above and those run by veterinary schools, governmental agencies, and professional organizations. Some of these links are given on the home page of “Diagnosis of Veterinary Endoparasitic Infections” under “links of interest”. Also, start with your lab textbook (Foreyt) and other textbooks (Such as Taylor, et al.or Bowman).