

Plagues and People

ANT 3930 1H83

Spring 2015, MWF 8:30, Flint Hall 105

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30 – 3:00; Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00

(Office location: Florida Museum of Natural History, Dickinson Hall)

This course provides an overview of how plagues and epidemics have shaped human prehistory and history. We will examine how large-scale social transformations such as sedentism, animal and plant domestication, and urbanism have produced novel forms of human/disease interactions, as well as how disease has facilitated or frustrated migration, wars, colonialism, and other social processes. Throughout the course we will consider how infectious disease has been conceptualized at different times and by different cultural groups and treated as a threat to the social order. In the contemporary world epidemics continue to occur and new, highly virulent diseases are emerging at a rapid rate. The reasons underlying these ongoing threats and the implications for the future health of humans will be explored.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester the student should be able to:

- 1) Explain how anthropology contributes to the field of epidemiology.
- 2) Describe how human activities have instigated the occurrence of epidemics since the advent of the Neolithic Revolution (i.e., since the development of agriculture and sedentary societies).
- 3) Critically evaluate how societies use disease to create stereotypes about other peoples, about gender roles, and about belief systems.
- 4) Explain the debates concerning the future likelihood and nature of broad-scale epidemics?

Course requirements for the class include two exams (mid-term and final), each worth 100 pts.; two quizzes, each worth 50 pts.; and a take-home assignment (50 pts.) The mid-term and final exams will cover the first and second halves of the course, respectively. The quizzes will occur at about the 1/4 and 3/4 points of the course. *The take-home assignment will be an epidemiological case study followed by a series of directed questions (it is not a research paper).*

A total of 350 pts. is possible in the course, and your final grade will be based on the scale below:

Points	Grade	Points	Grade
329-350	A	249-268	C
315-328	A-	245-258	C-
304-314	B+	234-244	D+
294-303	B	224-233	D
280-293	B-	210-223	D-
269-279	C+	< 210	E

Required Texts: There are two required texts for the class:

- Clark, David (2010). *Germs, Disease, and Civilization*. FT Press.
- Sherman, Irwin (2006). *The Power of Plagues*. ASM Press, Washington, DC.

Class Conduct

Please follow the basic rules of politeness to your class peers. Cell phone ringers should be turned off. If you are late, please sit in the back so as to not interrupt the lecture. You are responsible for getting any notes missed due to tardiness, I will not go over lectures that you missed or were late for during office hours unless you have an excused absence.

Cheating and Plagiarism

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scsr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel

Absences

I do not take attendance in this course. However, I do not post course notes or PowerPoints, nor will I review an unexcused missed class day in detail during office hours. If you miss a day, you should consider contacting one of your colleagues in the course about lecture material.

If you miss an exam, quiz, or due date for the take-home assignment, you must have a valid excuse in order to be allowed a make-up day. Justifiable absences are detailed by the university at the following link: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

If an absence is anticipated due to official university activities and similar, please let me know ahead of time. In such cases I will be happy to work with you to develop an alternative date for a test or assignment, or to work with you to make up material missed during a lecture. But you must let me know beforehand.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

Schedule of Classes and Topics

Week	Topic	Reading
I.	What is Infectious Disease? (Jan. 6-9) Introduction Basics of infectious disease Infectious disease and the immune system	Sherman, Chap. 1
II.	Infectious Disease in Prehistory and the Ancient World (Jan. 12-16) Hunters-Gatherers and Infections Agriculture, Urbanism, and Crowd Diseases Disease in the Ancient World	Clark, Chap. 2 Sherman, Chap. 2
III.	Disease and Faith in Medieval Times (Jan. 19-23) <i>No class on Monday, Jan. 19: MLK Holiday</i> The Black Plague Leprosy: The Disease of the Soul	Sherman, Chap. 4 Sherman, Chap. 14
IV.	Treating Disease in the Premodern Era (Jan. 26-30) Classical Foundations of Medicine Medieval Medicine and Society QUIZ, Jan. 30	Sherman, Chap. 11 Clark, Chap. 8
V.	Plagues and Colonialism (Feb. 2-6) Epidemics and European Expansionism Plagues Hindering Colonialism	Clark, Chap. 9
VI.	Cholera: Contagion, Morality and Social Control (Feb. 9-13) Miasma, Contagion, and Medical Detectives Class and Cholera	Sherman, Chap. 8
VII.	Fevers, Public Health and Germ Theory (Feb. 16-20) Typhoid Fever and Typhus MID-TERM, Feb. 20	Clark, Chap 4
VIII.	Aesthetics of Disease (Feb. 23-27) Plagues in Art & Cinema Plagues in Literature and Language	
SPRING BREAK, FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 7		
IX.	Epilogues to Disaster: Plagues and Wars (March 9-13) Influenza Pandemic 1918-1919 Biological Warfare: The Threat of Deadly Epidemics Take-home assignment handed out	Clark, Chap. 11 (Flu) Clark, Chap. 6

- X. Post-Colonialism: Disease, Development, and Globalization (March 16-20)**
 Development, Mosquitoes, and Fevers Sherman, Chap. 7
 Malaria and Yellow Fever Sherman, pp. 337-349
 Global Warming and Disease
- XI. STD's, Gender, and Morality (March 23 – 27)**
 Syphilis Sherman, Chap. 12
 HIV/AIDS Clark, Chap. 7
QUIZ, March 27
- XII. Deja Flu: New Visits from Old Diseases (March 30 –April 3)**
 Tuberculosis Sherman, Chap. 13
 Hantaviruses Clark, Chap. 11
Take-home assignment due in class, April 3
- XIII. Emergent Diseases (April 6 – 10)**
 Ebola and Hemorrhagic Fevers Sherman, Chap. 17
 Mad Cows and Prions
 Lymes, SARS and West Nile
- XIV. Structural Violence and Infectious Disease (April 13 – 17)**
 Comparative Perspectives on Public Health Sherman, Chap. 16
 “Thirdworldization”: Poverty and Disease
- XV. Looking Ahead (April 20 – 22)**
 Evolutionary Consequences of Disease Clark, Chap. 1
- Final: Thursday, April 30, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.**