

If you have any questions about the course, please contact me at tuross@fas.harvard.edu. We can Zoom if you wish!

Please note, that the course description says "substantial written work" I cannot edit the course description. I have changed the final from a lengthy term paper to an oral exam . So I would say, a "modest amount of written word" better describes the workload.

Course goals:

To explore the interaction between the environment, human health, and human evolution in the past, present, and future. We will focus on how the data are produced and the robustness of the analyses and interpretations via close reading and lively discussion of assigned papers.

Course format:

There will be background reading or zooms. In some cases, this background material will be optional. Two to three papers will be assigned for in-depth class discussion every week.

Typical enrollees:

Open to anyone who wants to actively participate in the class discussions. No one is typical.

When is the course typically offered?

One time only

What can students expect from you as an instructor?

I have carefully selected topics and readings for the course. I will be an active participant in class discussions; assess written work fully and fairly and administer the one on one final exam.

Assignments and grading:

Abstracts of papers are due prior to class time. Each student will lead the discussion on one paper, and the final exam will be oral.

Sample topics:

The Anthropocene, heat and sweat, water, infectious disease, the aged and the infants, reproduction, adjusting, adapting, and evolving.

Enrollment cap, selection process, notification:

Course enrollment is limited to 8. Largely first come, first served.

Absence and late work policies:

Students are expected to inform the class of any absence and will be required to submit additional written work. No late work will be accepted.