

Anthropology of Infectious Diseases

FALL 2017

Tuesday and Thursday 11.00am-12.15pm, DA 205

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"The Plague Doctor"
www.guestinvenice.com



Course Perspective

Anthropology helps us to understand our species across time and space from a cultural and biological perspective, and when understanding how infectious diseases affect our species we must use the same perspectives. A bio-cultural approach on past and present infectious diseases will create a more comprehensive and holistic scenario when reconstructing the impact of pathogens on human populations.

The **main goal** of this course is to study how infectious diseases shaped (and still shape) who we are, at the biological and at the cultural level. Our **questions** will cover a broad spectrum of topics such as: *What are epidemics? When do they start and when do they end? How do we study infectious diseases in the past? How accurate is retrospective diagnosis? How did epidemics change our lifestyles? How did our transition into plant and animal domestication change the way that infectious diseases spread over human populations? How did different societies (at different times) react against epidemic events? Why is a long-term historical and anthropological perspective crucial for understanding epidemics and their future impact on human societies?* In this course, four paradigmatic infectious diseases will help us trying to answer these questions: plague, leprosy, tuberculosis, and cholera.

This course will require **active student participation** and will allow us to practice and develop our **critical thinking skills**. In part, this will be modeled during class questions and discussions around different ideas and models on how to understand the complex interaction between pathogens and humans. Key elements of critical thinking include: identifying the question or problem, analyzing evidence and developing arguments, integrating knowledge and demonstrating awareness of multiple points of view, and drawing conclusions based upon reasons, arguments, and evidence.

Your **progress** and **final grade** will be assessed with **two (2) in class exams** and **class participation**.



Required readings (books)

1. "A Journal of the Plague Year"

by D. Dafoe. Dover Thrift Editions. ISBN: 0-486-41919-3 (eBook free version available)

2. “*Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*” (2006)

by S. Johnson. Riverhead Trade Publisher. ISBN: 978-1-59448-269-4 (eBook version available)

3. **Papers/articles/book chapters** will be available (pdf) on Blackboard “Course Documents” (check “Course Schedule”). Since the University has subscription to the journals selected, students will also have the right to access the electronic versions.



Recommended Reading (not mandatory)

1. “*The Burdens of Disease: Epidemics and Human Response in Western History*” (2nd Edition, 2010)
by J.N. Hays. Rutgers University Press. ISBN: 978-0-8135-4613-1 (eBook version available)
2. “*Diseases and human evolution*” (2005) by E. Barnes. University of New Mexico Press.
3. “*An unnatural history of emerging infections*” (2013) by R. Barrett and G. Armelagos. Oxford University Press.
4. “*Deadly companions: how microbes shaped our history*” (2007) by D. Crawford. Oxford University Press.
5. “*Evolution of infectious diseases*” (1996) by P. Ewald. Oxford University Press.
6. “*Emerging pathogens: archaeology, ecology, and evolution of infectious diseases*” (2003) Edited by C. Greenglatt and M. Spigelman. Oxford University Press.
7. “*Plagues and peoples*” (1976) by W. McNeill. Anchor Books.



Attendance Policy

I do not keep attendance (lectures), but **class participation will be part of your grade**, so it is to your benefit to attend class regularly to have more opportunities to fulfill class participation requirements (see “Grading/Class Participation”). If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the material that was covered that day.



Grading

Your grade will be based on:

1. **Two (2) in-class examinations** (50 points each)
2. **Class participation** (50 points)

So, total points available are 150 points.

I will maintain your grades on the Blackboard website, where you may review them at your convenience. Course grades will be assigned based on your final percent points earned (total available: 150 points) as follows:

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	<60%

Make up exams will be given only under extenuating circumstances and with appropriate supporting documentation. If you anticipate missing an exam because of an official university activity you may arrange to take the exam early. Such a dispensation is available only with appropriate supporting documentation at least one week prior to the scheduled exam date. Failure to take an exam will result in a score of zero for that exam. **Incomplete**; within the student conduct, discipline and grievance procedures for the College of Arts and Sciences it states that incompletes may only be granted if the following three conditions are met:

- 1) The majority of the course work was completed by the end of the semester; AND
- 2) The performance in the course work completed by the end of the semester met the published standards for a passing grade; AND
- 3) The final portion of the course work could not be completed for reasons beyond the student's control.

An incomplete is undesirable for both student and professor. Incompletes will only be granted with the approval of the departmental chairperson and suitable documentation of the circumstances by the student.



Exams

Two regular exams (50 points each) are given while classes are in session. Regular exams are composed of multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams will consist of questions taken from the topics covered in the readings and lectures.



Class Participation (READ CAREFULLY!!)

This course is heavily design for an active class participation.

- **Reading in advance** will be really important for the quality of your participation (for an interesting question and/or a good answer).
- **Each class** will have more than one opportunity for you to participate (but sometimes not enough opportunities in 75 minutes for all students to participate).
- You can participate more than once in the same class, and receive up to 5 points per class (meaning, **not more than 5 points per class**).
- **To receive the maximum points** (50 points) you must (at least) attend and participate in 10 different lectures and receive 5 points in each class (depending on the comments you can receive 5 or less than 5 points per class)
- **Not all participations in class will receive the same points.** After each class, I will update on Blackboard the "Class Participation" column for you to check how many points did you receive that class (of course, if you did participate in class that day).
- **If you do not receive 5 points when participating in one class**, you should attend more than 10 lectures for receiving the highest score for class participation.
- Therefore, **coming to all or most lectures** will give you more opportunities to receive class participation points!!



Handouts and Study Guides

The handouts for each lecture will be available AFTER the lecture is given (power point and pdf). I will maintain the handouts on Blackboard ("Course Documents"); let me know in advance if you have any problems downloading the handouts or any course information. I will provide a study guide one week prior to each exam. The study guide will include material covered in the readings and lectures.



E-mail

I will send email only to your official U of L email address as found on Blackboard. To ensure that I receive any email you send me, be sure that you use your official U of L email account.



Problems with Blackboard?

If you are not familiar with blackboard, you should visit first the following link:

[http://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1 SP 12 and SP 13/Student](http://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_12_and_SP_13/Student)

You can contact IT for any questions on Blackboard : 502-852-7997

Keep in mind that Blackboard at UofL is unavailable during maintenance period: Fridays 10:00PM - 2:00AM EST



Do you need extra help?

If you have difficulties with the course material and/or would like to review concepts, ask questions, or simply discuss some interesting ideas link to the course, please stop by during office hours or make an appointment to see me. Also, I am always available to answer questions via email.



Course Schedule (next page)



Course Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Material from Textbook (pages)
T08/22	Introduction to the Course (and “why” this course)	Syllabus
Th08/24	What is “Anthropology of Infectious Diseases”?	Inhorn and Brown, 1990; Herring and Swedlund, 2010 (pg 1-6)
T08/29	Disease in human evolution	Armelagos et al. 1996
Th08/31	Environmental and social influence on infectious diseases I	McMichael. 2004
T09/05	Environmental and social influence on infectious diseases II	Lebarbenchon et al, 2008
Th09/07	Learning from the past I: problems with retrospective diagnose	Mitchell, 2011
T09/12	Learning from the past II: problems with retrospective diagnose	Cunningham, 2002
Th09/14	Plague I: The great plague pandemic	<u>Book</u> : Hays, 2009 – Chapter 3
T09/19	Plague II: Who died during the epidemic?	De Witte and Wood, 2008
Th09/21	Plague III: 3 days in Venice, 1630	Ell, 1989
T09/26	Plague IV: A Journal of the Plague Year I	<u>Book</u> : Defoe, 1722
Th09/28	Plague V: A Journal of the Plague Year II	<u>Book</u> : Defoe, 1722
T10/03	EXAM 1	-----
Th10/05	Leprosy I: Medieval diseases and reponses	<u>Book</u> : Hays, 2009 – Chapter 2
T 10/10	Mid-term break	-----
Th10/12	Leprosy II: More on Medieval responses	Brenner, 2010
T 10/17	Leprosy III: Leprosy at Chichester, England	Lee and Magilton, 1989
Th10/19	Tuberculosis I: A disease of poverty and more <i>October 20th is the last day to withdraw from class</i>	<u>Book</u> : Hays, 2009 – Chapter 8 (extra: Roberts et al, 2003)
T 10/24	Tuberculosis II: Ancient urbanization, disease and historical declines	Barnes et al, 2010; Davies et al, 1999
Th10/26	Tuberculosis III: Co-evolution with humans	Gagneux, 2012
T10/31	Leprosy and Tuberculosis I: Disease interaction	Manchester, 1991
Th11/02	Leprosy and Tuberculosis II: Disease interaction	Donoghue et al, 2005
T11/07	Cholera I: Modern disease of ancient lineage	<u>Book</u> : Hays, 2009 – Chapter 7; Morris, 2011
Th11/09	Cholera II: Ghost Map	<u>Book</u> : Johnson, 2006
T11/14	Cholera III: Ghost Map	<u>Book</u> : Johnson, 2006
Th11/16	Mobility, transatlantic exchanges, and epidemics	<u>Book</u> : Hays, 2009 – Chapter 4 + Wilson, 2010
T11/21	Epidemics “today”	TBA
Th11/23	Thanksgiving break	-----
T11/28	The apparent end of epidemics and the epidemic of absence	<u>Book</u> : Hays, 2009 – Chapter 11;
T11/30	EXAM 2	-----