

**ANTHROPOLOGY 2290F-650
PLAGUES AND PEOPLES
Distance Studies
Course Outline
Summer 2018**

Online course.

Credit value: 0.5

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Newton

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Course Description:

This course offers an exploration of the social and cultural basis of health, disease, and healing. We will examine topics such as the patterns of illness and epidemics, social and cultural aspects of risk, the use of ritual in healing, and the politics of health, from an ethnographic and historical perspective. This course focuses on the ways in which epidemics of infectious diseases have influenced the course of human history. The origins, antiquity, and biological and social impact of plagues on human societies will be considered. We will examine questions such as: how and why do epidemics arise and in what ways do they transform societies? An exploration of the social and cultural basis of health, disease, and healing will be explored through several themes, including racism, gender, and human evolution and disease.

Prerequisite: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 essay course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite: none.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the relationship between human biology and behaviour with health, disease and healing
- Appreciate the importance of studying historic plagues for understanding current and future plagues
- Have an anthropological framework for interpreting the origins and consequences of illness and epidemics
- Understand the origins, symptoms and impacts of discussed diseases
- Be able to read and think critically
- Be able to synthesize, analyse, and interpret epidemiological data/readings
- Be able to communicate information in a concise and coherent manner using appropriate terminology

Required Texts:

Barnes, Ethne (2005). *Diseases and Human Evolution*. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press.

Barrett, Ron and Armelagos, George (2014). *An Unnatural History of Emerging Infections*. Oxford University Press.

*Both required texts are also available as e-books through online booksellers

Additional readings may be assigned. Any additional readings will be posted online.

Course Structure:

The course is structured into twelve weeks that contain textbook reading assignments, video lectures and additional videos/links posted to OWL. The modules will open one at a time and you will be required to contribute to the discussion forum for each week. In general, modules are open for one week. The discussion board for each week closes at the end of that week (see explanation below). Once a module closes you can no longer submit posts for that module, however the content of the module remains available for the remainder of the term.

The course consists of one essay assignment (submitted and evaluated online), module-based graded discussion forums (posted and evaluated online) and a final exam (to be written in-person and scheduled during the final exam period by the Registrar's Office).

Course Evaluation:

Type of Assignment	Weighting	Due Date
Participation and Contributions to Online Discussion Forum	45% (15% x 3 modules)	Throughout the term. Further details below and on OWL.
Essay	20%	Complete details will be provided on OWL. You can submit anytime until Monday July 9 th at 9:00AM.
Final Exam	35%	TBD - Scheduled by the Registrar's Office between July 30 and August 2.

Participation and Contributions to Online Discussion:

All students must participate in the weekly online discussion. You are required to make at least one substantial contribution to the conversations each week. This contribution should be fully developed comments and questions, not simply one or two sentences; however, they should not be more than two paragraphs in length (~250 words). They must deal with issues raised in the course readings, lectures and videos. For example, you can include substantial comments on the reading material, a question that you think might offer useful ideas for exploring the readings, some reflection on your experience with the topics in the course, etc.

You are also required to post one response to another student's contribution (~100-150 words) each week. You may post responses to several student comments/contributions, however you may not post more than four responses in each weekly forum.

Your discussion grade will be based on both the quantity and quality of your online participation. You will receive three evaluations of your work arranged into Modules. The first module includes contributions from Weeks 1 to 4, inclusive. The second module includes Weeks 5 to 8, inclusive. The third module includes Weeks 9 to 12, inclusive. Your total Discussion Board postings mark is worth 45% of your course grade (15% x3 Modules). See grading rubric on OWL for an explanation of the grades.

The discussion for each week closes by 9PM each Sunday (e.g., Week 1 discussion closes at 9PM on May 13th). The new discussion week will open each Monday at 9AM (e.g., Week 2 discussion will open on May 14th at 9AM).

Essay:

Complete details will be provided on OWL. The essay is worth 20% of your course grade and is to be submitted online. The final date for submission is Monday July 9th at 9:00AM. However, you can submit the essay anytime until this date. Late submissions will not be accepted without proper documentation (see policy on illnesses below).

Important Note: Weldon Library has an excellent website you can use to make sure you don't commit plagiarism in your essay: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp>

Final Exam:

The final exam is worth 35% of your total mark and will take place in-person during the final exam period between July 30 and August 2. The date is determined by the Registrar's Office. Further details will be provided on OWL.

The deadline to withdraw from this course without academic penalty is **Monday June 11, 2018**. Students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade three days prior to this date.

Week-by-week schedule:

Week	Topic:	Readings: *Additional readings may be assigned and posted online
1 (May 7)	The anthropology of infectious disease; war and plagues	Barnes Chapters 1 & 15
2 (May 14)	The origins of plagues; epidemiological principles	Barnes Chapter 2 Barrett & Armelagos Introduction
3 (May 21)	Human evolution and disease; epidemics in history	Barnes Chapters 3, 4, 8 & 11 Barrett & Armelagos Part One

4 (May 28)	The Black Death	Barnes Chapter 14
5 (June 4)	The speckled monster	Barnes Chapter 13 Barrett & Armelagos Part Two
6 (June 11)	The forgotten plague	Barnes Chapter 20
7 (June 18)	The secret plague	Barnes Chapter 12
8 (June 25)	The white plague	Barnes Chapter 9
9 (July 2)	The hot plague	Barnes Chapter 17
10 (July 9)	The moral plague	Barnes Chapter 10
11 (July 16)	Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases	Barnes Chapters 21-23
12 (July 23)	The Canadian Health Care System	Barrett & Armelagos Part Three

Accommodation for Illness:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

General University Policies: All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Useful Websites:

- Student Center: <https://student.uwo.ca>
- Anthropology Department: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca>
- Office of the Registrar: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
- Student Development Center: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>
- Writing Support Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>
- Plagiarism and Citing Sources: www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp
- Accommodated Exams: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Statement on Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf