Plagues, Pathogens, and Public Policy: the Anthropological Perspective

ANTH 323 SG91 and SG92 Spring 2017
University of Maryland – Shady Grove Campus
Location: Building II Room 3012
Wednesdays 2:00 to 4:30 PM
Instructor: Marilyn R. London, MA (mlondon@hers.com)
Office hours: Wednesday between 1:00 and 2:00 (Please make an appointment.)

Course description: The impact of diseases on populations from prehistoric times through the present will be examined, along with public perceptions of disease, scientific breakthroughs on treatment and prevention, and the ways that politics and public health policies can enhance or impede the advancement of disease treatment. The natural history of disease, population structure, and immunity will be discussed. The class will address emerging and re-emerging diseases and the ways that first responders, researchers, and policy makers may affect the outcome of an outbreak.

Text:

Grading: Attendance and class participation are required. Exams will be given March 8, April 19, and during finals week in May (to be announced). In addition, each student is required to write a short paper (5 to 10 pages) on a disease topic approved by the instructor, and to give a class presentation on the disease. To write the paper, students are required to answer a series of questions about the disease, including the impact of public policy on the spread of the disease (or containment), the quality of life of the victims, and the current status of the disease. (A list of diseases, questions to be addressed, and approved reference materials will be handed out.) The presentations will be given starting March 29. Your paper is due one week following your presentation. For the final exam, community roles will be assigned at mid-semester, and each student is required to write a disaster plan for his or her community organization or agency. These plans will be presented at a “Town Hall Meeting” on the last day of class. The examinations, the disaster plan, and the paper/presentation will be worth 100 points each, and class participation will be worth another 100 points. The total number of possible points is 600. Grades are determined by the percentage of the points you earn. A = 90-100%, B = 80-89.9%, C = 70-79.9%, D = 60-69.9%, F = < 60%.
Class and Laboratory Policies

Inclement Weather Policy: In the event of inclement weather or other emergency conditions, you should follow delays and closures for the "Universities at Shady Grove" or "USM Shady Grove Center," rather than any individual participating USM institution. Closures and delays will be sent over the e2Campus notification system, as well as being reported on local radio and television news stations. You may also call USG at 301.738.6000 for recorded updates related to closures or delays. In the event that the University is closed for an emergency or extended period of time, I will communicate to you via email to indicate schedule adjustments, including rescheduling of examinations and assignments due to inclement weather and campus emergencies.

Make-up tests: Make-up tests are not normally given. They will only be considered in extreme cases and will require documentation such as a doctor's excuse that indicates incapacity. Excuses are accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Integrity: The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html.

Religious Observance: Attendance and Academic Assignments
The University System of Maryland policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. Every feasible effort will be made to accommodate students' requests based on attendance of religious observances.

It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. Notice should be provided as soon as possible but no later than the end of the second class (February 2). Prior notification is especially important in connection with final examinations, since failure to reschedule a final examination before the conclusion of the final examination period may result in loss of credits during the semester.

Class Conduct and Participation: Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who
are unable to demonstrate civility to the instructor and each other will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to the University Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

In addition, students MAY NOT use their computers, iPods, cell phones, Blackberries, or other electronic devices during class time. These must be turned OFF. This means **you may NOT tweet, IM, text, surf the web, or email during class time. You may NOT accept or make telephone calls during class time.**

**Other Course Information:**

**Students with Disabilities**

If any student has any special study or test-taking needs such as test anxiety, dyslexia, poor vision or hearing, or special seating requirements, please let the instructor know by the second class (February 2) so that we can make your participation in this course a rewarding one. You MUST register with the University’s Disability Support Services Office (http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/), and only written DSS documentation of the accommodation will be accepted. At Shady Grove, you can arrange your test-taking needs by contacting your instructor and filling out the form at http://www.shadygrove.umd.edu/sites/default/files/USG_Assets/PDF/TestRequest%20Form2010.pdf. In addition, the instructor will gladly make students aware of special services/facilities on this campus that might be of assistance in the course of your studies at the University of Maryland.

**Absences for Medical Reasons**

The University will accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from a student who has missed a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, attesting to the date of the illness. The note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. Further information on medical absences can be found at http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/v100g.html. If you need to miss several class sessions due to medical reasons, you must discuss this in advance (if possible) with the instructor.

**Copyright Information**

Class lectures and other materials are copyrighted and that they may not be reproduced for anything other than personal use without written permission from the instructor.
### Assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation/ 5-10 page paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Agency disaster plan</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>600 points</strong></td>
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### Course Schedule

January 25 – Basics of disease and epidemiology: terminology, pathogens, scope of course; Epidemiological transitions in human history

February 1 – Influenza  
- Video: ESWI updates  
- Reading: Sherman, Chapter 10

February 8 – Hemophilia, Porphyria, and other genetic diseases  
- Video: Bad Blood  
- Reading: Sherman, Chapter 1

February 15 – Review of Statistics  
The Fine Art of Baloney Detection

February 22 – Polio  
- Video: The Polio Crusade

March 1 – Smallpox  
- Video: History's Mysteries: Smallpox  
- Reading: Sherman, Chapter 4

March 8 – **Exam I**  
- Cholera  
- Reading: Sherman, Chapter 3

March 15 – Bubonic plague  
- Video: The Black Death  
- Malaria  
- Video: India's War Against Malaria  
- Reading: Sherman, Chapter 5, 8

March 22 – SPRING BREAK
March 29 – AIDS
  Video: Front Line: The Age of AIDS
  Reading: Sherman, Chapter 11

April 5 – Ebola
  Zika virus

April 12 – Yellow Fever
  Video: The Great Fever
  Reading: Sherman, Chapter 9

April 19 – Exam II
  Potato blight
  Reading: Sherman, Chapter 2

April 26 – Trauma epidemics; Syphilis; Tuberculosis; Leprosy
  Reading: Sherman, Chapter 6, 7

May 3 – Town Hall Meeting: Planning for Disasters and Disease Outbreaks

May 10 – Disease Outbreak Exercise

Final exam – May 17 is tentative date