

Plagues and People: Health and Disease in Human Society (ANTH 1913)
Class meets Monday and Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:20 PM in Adams Hall Room 100

Instructor: Allison Mann

Office: Dale Hall 209

Best way to reach me: aemann01@ou.edu

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 4:00 to 5:30 PM or by appointment

Overview

In this course, we'll study the impact of diseases such as rabies, plague, smallpox, polio, measles, and HIV on human society – from their effects on populations to how they have influenced the course of history. We'll identify social and cultural factors and conditions that influence and impede the rate of spread of contagious diseases. Additionally, we'll examine a number of ethical issues that arise concerning the treatment of the sick and policies designed to halt epidemics. A final section will discuss the contemporary threat of biological weapons and their impact on local and national public health efforts in the United States.

This course is approved for Core Area III: Social Science General Education credit

What are we reading, and where can I find the readings?

You can find the required books at the OU bookstore or at other book sellers. You're responsible for obtaining all of the required books for this class. Make sure you do that at the beginning of the semester rather than waiting until the middle or the end of the term. The bookstores do not retain unsold books more than halfway through the semester.

Required books (alternate/electronic editions should be fine):

- Jessie Snyder Sachs (2007) *Good Germs, Bad Germs: Health and survival in a bacterial world*. NY, Hill and Wang (304 pages)
- Steven Johnson (2007). *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic*. Riverhead Books. (320 pages).
- Bill Wasik and Monica Murphy (2012). *Rabid: A cultural history of the world's most diabolical virus*. Penguin Books. (236 pages)

Resources for finding cheap books:

- <http://occupythebookstore.com/>
- <http://www.booksprice.com/>

Other required readings and other course material will be posted on Desire2Learn (D2L). See the schedule for details. Be sure that you've completed the material by the day listed, as there may be a class discussion and/or a quiz on that day. There is a lot of reading required for this class – plan ahead, and whenever possible, read ahead.

Check your OU email and the course D2L page frequently: we'll use them a lot.

- Please check D2L regularly, at <https://learn.ou.edu>. I'll use it to post grades, course-related news, readings, and other course materials.

- Unless told otherwise, you'll upload your completed assignments to the appropriate D2L drop box. I'll return them the same way.
- D2L and your OU email account are my main ways of getting information to you outside of class. If you don't check either of those often, you may miss important information, for example, about revised due dates, canceled classes, etc.
- You can get the course news items that are posted on D2L via text message or an alternate email account. For information on setting this up, please see <http://tinyurl.com/o4zb5mm>.
- If you prefer to use a non-OU email account, you can forward your email to another account. See "Manage Your OU Account" at <https://accounts.ou.edu/Account/LogOn>.
- When sending me an email please include the course number (ANTH 1913) in the subject line.

Grades

- Grades are weighted so that five percent of your final grade is from attendance and participation, 67 percent from exams, 17 percent from your short research paper, and 11 percent from quizzes and exercises.
- 90% and above = A. 80% and above = B, etc...

Grade breakdown

Attendance and participation	5 percent of final grade (0.05 * (points earned/50))
3 highest scores of 4 exams	67 percent of final grade (0.67 * (points earned/450))
Short research paper (5-6 pages)	17 percent of final grade (0.17 * (points earned/150))
Quizzes and exercises	11 percent of final grade (0.11 * (points earned/100))

Example grade calculation (There is an excel page on D2L that you can use to estimate your final grade)

Component	Weight	Total category points	Example totals	Example weighted score
Attendance & participation	0.05	50	40	0.04
Exams (3 highest)	0.67	450	400	0.59
Research paper	0.17	150	120	0.13
Quizzes & exercises	0.11	100	85	0.09
			Example % grade:	0.86
			Letter grade:	B

Attendance and participation

- It's important to come to class. Many of the course materials are posted on D2L, but there is other important information that will be presented ONLY in class. We also have quizzes and in class exercises.
- You'll sign the attendance sheet each day. Here is the relationship between unexcused absences and the maximum number of attendance points you can earn:
 - 1-2 unexcused absences: 50 points maximum (i.e., you get 2 "free" unexcused absences)
 - 3 unexcused absences: 45 points maximum

- 4 unexcused absences: 35 points maximum
 - 5 unexcused absences: 15 points maximum
 - 6 or more unexcused absences: 0 attendance points
- If you can't avoid missing a class, please let me know in advance, and provide documentation, if available. Excused absences may include illness, university sanctioned travel, documented emergencies, etc.
- **Contacting me in advance does not automatically excuse your absence.**
 - In addition to your attendance, your participation is important. "Participation" means actively engaging the course material and to taking part in discussions. For example, if you sit out of group discussions, don't expect to earn all of the possible attendance and participation points.
 - Negative participation: In addition to positive participation points, you can also earn negative participation points. This refers to anything that is disruptive to the instructor or the other students during class time. Some examples of this would include talking, rudeness to your fellow students, text messaging, inappropriate use of laptop computers, eating unusually crunchy foods, and/or repeatedly coming to class late.
 - Please ask questions at any time. Feel free to meet with me if there is anything you don't understand or just want to talk over.
 - Religious holidays: It is University policy to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide, without penalty, for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please talk with me at least 2 weeks prior to the assignment due date in order for accommodations to be made.

Exams

- Questions may come from any of the class material (lectures, readings, discussions) and may include multiple choice, short answer, short essay (1-2 paragraphs), and fill in the blanks type questions.
- The fourth exam is not cumulative. You cannot reschedule a final exam except under the most extreme circumstances. OU's finals policies are at www.ou.edu/enrollment/home/final_exams.html.
- I will drop your lowest exam score. This means that you can miss any one of the four exams with no penalty. Your final grade will include your three highest exam scores (plus the other course assignments, of course).

Short research paper

- Writing assignments are required for general education courses at OU. Lower division Social Science Gen Ed courses require a 5+ page scholarly/academic paper, written outside of class, with references, plus other writings (which can be in class).
- You'll write a short (5-6 page) paper based on one of the three major reading assignments (Good Germs, Bad Germs; The Ghost Map; Plague and Fire) + 5 or more additional sources that you find yourself. I'll give you more information on a separate handout. The due dates are listed below.
- **You must complete the plagiarism quiz exercise (posted to D2L) before writing and turning in your essay.** Students who fail to complete the quiz will not receive a grade for their

paper.

- **Since this assignments is self-scheduled, I won't accept late papers.** You are always welcome to turn in your paper before the due date.
- You'll turn in your completed paper electronically to the assigned D2L drop box. I'll post a detailed assignment sheet on D2L.

Writing assistance

For help with writing, please contact the Writing Center at 325-2936 (www.ou.edu/writingcenter) or talk with me. The Writing Center takes in person and online appointments (via email). This is a great resource to take advantage of!

Quizzes and exercises (5-20 points each)

These are generally not announced in advance. Exercises may be in class or take home.

Return of exams and assignments

University guidelines indicate that instructors should give students the results of exams and assignments within 2 weeks. I will make every effort to post your grades within that time frame.

Missed exams

- If you accidentally miss an exam, you cannot make it up.
- If you miss an exam because of a documented emergency or because of a legitimate, documented schedule conflict (e.g., mandatory participation in a university-sponsored event), you may be able to reschedule the exam.
- If possible, make arrangements ahead of time. Otherwise, you must contact me the day of the exam, preferably before the scheduled exam time, to let me know what happened and to ask for permission to make up the exam. The best ways to contact me are by email or coming to my open office hours.
- If you miss an exam due to illness, get a doctor's note. You'll need one to make up the exam.
- Make-up exams may be in a different format from the regular exam--for example, all essays.

Grade review

Occasionally instructors make errors in grading. If you feel your test or paper has been graded unfairly, you are welcome to submit it for grading review. If you do this, however, be aware that your entire exam or paper (not just one or two questions) will subsequently be reviewed for grading errors, including errors that may have originally been in your favor.

Cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.

My first concern is minimizing distractions for your classmates. If you want to use your device to take notes:

- DO turn off the sound,
- If possible, DO sit in places where you are less likely to have someone without a computer sitting next to or behind you (back rows and seats nearest the aisles), and
- DON'T web surf, monitor Facebook, respond to email, send text messages, watch videos, or do anything else that will distract those around you. Everyone sitting near you can see your screen.
- A quick, discrete check to see what email just appeared in your mailbox is a minor distraction.

Spending 5 minutes writing a response or web surfing is not.

- Repeat violators of these rules will be asked to leave their computers turned off during class and may lose participation points.

Special needs

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. Formal requests for accommodation are made through the Office of Disability Services (Goddard Health Center, Room 166, 325-3852).

Academic integrity

- I report all violations of the OU Academic Integrity Code to the provost's office.
- Academic integrity violations (academic misconduct) include the use of unauthorized materials, information or study materials on exams and other assignments; improper collaboration; submitting the same assignment to different classes; and plagiarism (presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own). **The use of internet sources to complete in-class assignments is not allowed unless you are specifically told otherwise.**
- In your written work, make sure that you cite all sources appropriately using the citation style specified in the assignment guidelines (author, date, and page number where necessary). Include a bibliography of cited sources with your essays. Failure to do so may be regarded as plagiarism, and you may fail the assignment as a result. Failing the assignment may mean receiving a score of zero.
- Academic misconduct on course work may result in a failing grade for this class and in other penalties from the provost's office. The provost's penalties for violations range from admonition to expulsion from OU. It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with the definitions, policies, and procedures concerning academic misconduct. More information on academic integrity can be found at <http://integrity.ou.edu> and at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html.

Religious holidays

It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. If you plan on observing a religious holiday please notify me as soon as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements for class work or rescheduling of examinations.

Other class policies

- Feel free to ask questions and to make comments! They are an important part of class.
- Please be polite to your classmates. Don't distract them by arriving late or by talking when you should be listening.
- Class will start promptly at 12 p.m. and will end no later than 1:15 p.m. Please arrive on time, and wait until class is over to pack your books. If you know ahead of time that you'll need to leave early, sit near the door, and let me know in advance.

Syllabus changes

I reserve the right to make changes to the course syllabus and reading assignments over the course of the semester should the need arise. These changes should not affect the workload or the points distribution.

Important Dates

- Exam 1: September 16
- Exam 2: October 14
- Exam 3: November 11
- Exam 4: December 9
- Rabid Essay Due: October 23
- The Ghost Map Essay Due: November 13
- Good Germs, Bad Germs Essay Due: December 11

Class Schedule

Week 1:

Monday August 24: Introduction to the course

Read:

- Good Germs, Bad Germs Prologue (pages 1-12) [We'll discuss this reading in a couple weeks, but it's listed here to give you a head start]

Wednesday August 26: How can anthropology help us to understand epidemics? Case study: Ebola.

Read:

- Hewlett BS, and Hewlett BL. 2008. "Outbreak ethnography. The anthropologist's toolkit" (pp. 19-36).
- BBC News, How Ebola Changed the World: <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-31982078>

Week 2:

Monday August 31: Ebola, continued – Ebola discussion

Wednesday September 2: Anthropology of epidemics, continued. Case study: Kuru. Introduction to microbes.

Read:

- A. S. Wiley and J. S. Allen (2013). [Excerpt on pathogens and hosts, pages 226-235] *Medical Anthropology. A Biocultural Approach*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Good Germs, Bad Germs Chapter 2 "Life on Man" (pages 35-71)

Week 3:

Monday September 7: Labor Day (NO CLASS)

Wednesday September 9: Microbes, evolution, and immunity

Read:

- Callahan GN. (2006). "Infections: Where we get them." *Infection: The Uninvited Universe*. New York: St. Martin's Press. (pages 3-14)

- A. S. Wiley and J. S. Allen (2013). [Excerpt on virulence, pages 258-262] *Medical Anthropology. A Biocultural Approach*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Week 4:

Monday September 14: Immunity, continued. Good germs: the "hygiene hypothesis" for increased allergy rates. Discussion of Good Germs, Bad Germs readings so far.

Read:

- Good Germs, Bad Germs: Chapter 3 "Too clean" (pages 73-102)
- Zimmer C. 2010. How microbes defend us and define us. NY Times, July 12, 2010.
- Lee MM-OL. 2013. Why I donated my stool. NY Times, July 6, 2013.

****EXAM 1: Wednesday September 16****

Week 5:

Monday September 21: Epidemiological transitions: the rise of crowd and zoonotic diseases

Read:

- Quammen D. 2012. "Pale horse" (pp. 13-49). *Spillover. Animal infections and the next human pandemic*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Wednesday September 23: The Black Death

Read:

- Hays, J. N. (2009). "The Great Plague Pandemic." *The Burdens of Disease*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. (pages 37-61)

To stay on track to finish *Rabid* by Oct 5, when we'll talk about it in class:

- *Rabid*, chapters 1 – 4 (pages 1 - 117)

Week 6:

Monday September 28 (World Rabies Day!): The Black Death, continued

Read:

- Quinn 2012

To stay on track to finish *Rabid* by Oct 5, when we'll talk about it in class:

- *Rabid*, chapters 5 – 7 (pages 119 - 200)

Wednesday September 30: Rabies

Read:

- *Rabid*, chapters 8 – end (pages 203 - 238)

****Plagiarism quiz due by Friday, October 2nd at 11:59 p.m. See D2L for details.****

Week 7:

Monday October 5: Rabies in Bali, Discussion of *Rabid*

Wednesday October 7: Syphilis

Week 8:

Monday October 12: Guest lecture: Dr. Christina Warinner

Read:

- Fenn, E. (2001) [Excerpt on smallpox inoculation in the 18th century U.S., pages 27-43] Pox Americana. The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82. New York: Hill and Wang. [Who was most likely to be inoculated at this time? What were the dangers?]

To stay on track to finish *The Ghost Map* by 10/16, when we'll talk about it in class:

- Read *The Ghost Map*, pages 1-79

****EXAM 2: Wednesday October 14****

Week 9:

Monday October 19: Smallpox continued, Yellow fever

To stay on track to finish *The Ghost Map* by 10/16, when we'll talk about it in class:

- Read *The Ghost Map*, pages 81-156

Wednesday October 21: Cholera

****If you are turning in a research paper based on *Rabid*, it is due no later than Friday, October 23rd at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 10:

Monday October 26: Cholera, continued, and the rise of public health. Discussion of *The Ghost Map*.

Read:

- *The Ghost Map*, pages 159-256

****More than 2 final exams in one day? This is the last week for you to make alternate arrangements with your instructors. See http://www.ou.edu/enrollment/home/final_exams.html for details.**

Wednesday October 28: Tuberculosis: changing ideas about prevention and treatment

Read:

- Hays JN. 2009. "Tuberculosis and poverty" (pages 155-178). *The Burdens of Disease: Epidemics and Human Response in Western History*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

****Last day to drop class with W, October 30th**

Week 11:

Monday November 2: Tuberculosis, continued

Watch:

- The 2011 documentary on life in a TB sanatorium in the 1950s, *Remembering Cresson: Life at "The San"* (30 minutes). This is available streaming at <http://tinyurl.com/or9byes>

Read:

- Loury, E. (2012) TB is very much alive at Olive View-UCLA hospital in Sylmar. *Los Angeles Times*, August 19. <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-tb-olive-view-20120819,0,6440896.story>

Read at least two personal accounts posted at: <http://tinyurl.com/q9nnt7t>, and come to class prepared to talk about them. This site belongs to Chuck Felton, the gentleman who is the main focus of the documentary on Cresson.

Wednesday November 4: Polio: a disease on the verge of eradication

Week 12:

Monday November 9: Polio, continued. Epidemic disease and long-term disability

Read:

- Roberts, L. (2012). "Fighting Polio in Pakistan." *Science* 337(6094): 517-21.
- Roberts, L. (2012). "The Polio Emergency." *Science* 337(6094): 514-16.
- Jarvie, J. (2008). Generator fails woman in iron lung. *Los Angeles Times*, May 29.

****EXAM 3: Wednesday November 11****

****If you are doing a research paper based on *The Ghost Map*, it is due no later than Friday, November 13th at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 13:

Monday November 16: Emerging infectious diseases: MERS, SARS, and HIV/AIDS

To stay on track for next week's material:

- Read Good Germs, Bad Germs, pages 105-140 [This section looks at antibiotic resistance in bacteria, which is a factor in several emerging infectious diseases. We'll talk about antibiotic resistance next week, but since there's a lot of other reading for next week you'll want to be sure to start it early.]

Wednesday November 18: Emerging infectious diseases: the rise of antibiotic resistance

Read:

- Good Germs, Bad Germs pages 141-182 [More on the rise of antibiotic resistance, with some information on the role of food production.]

Week 14:

Monday November 23: Disease and the food chain

Read:

- Eric Schlosser (2002) *Fast Food Nation*. NY: HarperCollins. (pages 193-222)

Thanksgiving vacation: Nov 25 - 29

Week 15:

Monday November 30: "Re-emerging" infectious diseases: Malaria and dengue

Wednesday December 2: Influenza

Read:

- Barry JM. 2009. *The Great Influenza*. New York: Penguin. (pages 98-115, 231-252, and 320-350) [This book describes the influenza pandemic of 1918.]

Week 16:

Monday December 7: Plagues of our own making: biological weapons and bioterrorism

****Exam 4: Wednesday, December 9****

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***If you are turning in a research paper based on Good Germs, Bad Germs, it's due no later than Friday, December 11th at 11:59 p.m. You may of course turn it in earlier.*