



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**HISTORY 2812E**  
**Plague, Pox and Flu: Disease in Global History**  
**Fall/Winter 2018-19**  
**Mondays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

**Instructor: Prof Shelley McKellar**

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. or by appointment  
Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2227  
Email: smckell@uwo.ca

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**Course Description:**

This course examines the role of disease in history, exploring how disease swept through cities, devastated populations, and transformed politics, public health and economies. Spanning from antiquity to present day, this global survey investigates society's experience with, and response to, such diseases as the plague, leprosy, smallpox, and AIDS/HIV.

**Course Syllabus:**

Has disease altered history? How have different societies, at different times, responded to disease outbreaks or taken preventative action to protect their communities against disease? Several historical approaches will be emphasized in this course, including disease as a causative agent of change, disease as a mirror reflecting social processes, and disease as a way of illustrating theories and practices concerning health and medicine. Issues of class, race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality will certainly be discussed.

Lectures will focus not just on a narrative account of events, but will also consider historical interpretation, contrasting points of view, as well as methods and theories used by historians to gather and evaluate historical evidence. How do historians know what they know about the past? Students will be encouraged to investigate history through a variety of primary sources throughout this course.

This course is open to all students. History students, students planning to major in science or medicine, or other students in the social sciences, health sciences, or arts and humanities are welcome. Students do not need a background in science, medicine or even history to take this survey course.

***Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students should be able:***

- To appreciate the role played by disease in shaping the past;
- To understand that society's understanding and responses to disease are shaped by time and place;
- To understand some of the methodologies and approaches involved in investigating disease in history;
- To analyze critically various source materials – both primary and secondary sources – from which to understand disease in history;
- To formulate and communicate an effective argument, demonstrating good research and writing skills;
- To use (possibly) historical analysis to discover useful perspectives on the continuing challenges of disease in our world today.

**Course Materials:**

***Recommended Course Texts:***

- J.N. Hays, *The Burdens of Disease: Epidemics and Human Response in Western History* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2009, Revised Edition)
- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* (Bedford/ St. Martin’s, 2015) 8<sup>th</sup> edition (earlier editions also useful)

***Assignment Texts:***

- Steven Johnson, *The Ghost Map: The Story of London’s Most Terrifying Epidemic – and How It Changed Science, Cities and the Modern World* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2007)
- Jennifer Lee Carrell, *The Speckled Monster: A Historical Tale of Battling Smallpox* (New York: Dutton, 2003)

***OWL Course Page:***

This course utilizes OWL (Western’s online learning management system) at <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> Students need to access this site to participate in the online discussion, to view course grades, and to download relevant course material, including PowerPoint lecture slides and assignment handouts. Make sure you are able to access and participate in the course site. For students experiencing problems, please contact the Help Desk at ITRC (Instructional Technology Resource Centre) on campus at 519-661-2111 Ext. 85513 or online at <http://www.uwo.ca/its/itrc/>

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Online Discussions (20 topics) .....	15 %	.....	Approx. every week See posting schedule above
Assignment #1: Short Essay .....	15 %	.....	Oct 22 due in class (1000-1250 words or 4-5 pages double-spaced)
Midterm Test .....	20 %	.....	Nov 19 in class
Assignment #2: Long Essay .....	25 %	.....	Mar 4 due in class (2000-2500 words or 8-10 pages double-spaced)
Final Exam .....	25 %	.....	April exam period

***Online Discussions:***

Online student discussion will be based on discussion topics posted by the professor to the OWL course site. Topics related to course themes and lectures will be **posted for a limited time** (approximately 1 week) for online class discussion. Only one topic will be open for comment at a time; new topics will replace the older ones. **The onus is on the student to participate in this online discussion.** Students

are to post their own position and/or commentary to the topic and are encouraged to respond to the comments of other students as well.

**These discussion postings will be marked qualitatively**, based on thoughtfulness, originality, ability to interact with other postings, and ability to relate to course themes. Students may post multiple comments on any one topic, demonstrating their reading and engagement with the online discussion. So comment on your peers' responses! Note that **redundant comments however will not earn marks**. Also any online postings on the discussion board construed as "flaming" or inappropriate will automatically result in a zero participation grade for that student, and may be brought to the attention of the Department Chair for possible further action.

***Assignment #1: Short Essay (1000-1250 words or 4-5 pages double-spaced)***

Students shall write a short essay arising from a public health issue and/or disease event in history. A detailed handout regarding this assignment will be posted on the OWL course site. Students will have a choice of topics for this assignment.

***Assignment #2: Long Essay (2000-2500 words or 8-10 pages double-spaced)***

Students shall write a long essay on the impact of a specific disease in history. A handout regarding this assignment will be posted on the OWL course site. Students will have a choice of topics for this assignment.

***Submitting Your Assignments ---***

You must submit **a paper copy** of your work (both assignments), preferably in class, on the due date. In addition, you must submit **an identical electronic copy** to **Turnitin.com** which is available via the OWL course page. Please note that failure to submit your essay to turnitin.com will result in a 0 grade, even if a paper copy has been submitted. The **submission date of the paper copy of your essay** (not the turnitin.com date) will determine if a late penalty will be applied or not.

***Late Penalties –***

Penalty for late essays is 2% each day after the due date (excluding Saturdays and Sundays). Essays are to be handed to the professor **in class** or to History Department's Essay Drop-Off Box in the hallway outside the History Office located at Lawson Hall 2201. Essays in the Drop-Off Box will be collected at the end of the business day to be date stamped (be aware of office hours). Faxed and emailed essays are not acceptable. Essays slipped under professor's office door are also not acceptable. Extensions may be granted if legitimate circumstances are presented by the student to the professor well in advance of the due date. Poor work planning (such as "I have XX other papers due") is not grounds for an extension. In cases of illness, please refer to the university's Policy on Accommodation for Illness at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf). \* **Note that after 7 days (1 week past due date), the assignment will not be accepted.**

**Midterm Test (90 minutes in class) – See “What do I study?” slides on OWL course page**

The midterm test will take place in class. Students are responsible for course material covered in lectures, assignments and online discussions up to the date of the midterm test. The midterm test will consist of two parts.

Part I – Identification and Significance -- will consist of identification and significance questions taken from the list of terms, events and names provided on each class lecture outline.

Part II – Short Answer Essay – will consist of short answer essay questions based on material covered in the class lectures.

**Final Exam (2 hours in April exam period) – See “What do I study?” slides on OWL page**

The final exam will take place in the April exam period as set by the Registrar’s Office. Students are responsible for course material covered since the midterm. The final exam will consist of three parts.

Part I – Identification of Terms/Events/People -- will consist of identification and significance questions taken from the list of terms, events and names provided on each class lecture outline.

Part II – Short Answer Essay – will consist of questions based on material covered in the class lectures.

Part III – Long Answer Essay -- will consist of questions based on material covered in the class lectures.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

Date	Lecture Topic	Recommended Reading	Online Discussion
<b>Fall Term</b>		J.N. Hays, <i>The Burdens of Disease</i> (2009)	OWL
Sep 10	Introduction: What is Disease?	Introduction	<i>No discussion posting</i>
Sep 17	Ancient Egyptian and Greek Ideas about Disease	Chapter 1	(1) Disease Ideas: Lovesickness as a Disease?
Sep 24	Plague in the Ancient World	Chapter 1	(2) Galen and Emperor Marcus Aurelius: Changing Medical Practice?
Oct 1	Disease in the Middle Ages: Medicine and Faith	Chapter 2	(3) The Medieval Physician: Complementary or Contradicting Images?
Oct 8	<b>No class meeting</b>		<i>No discussion posting</i>
Oct 15	The Black Death in Europe and the Middle East, 1347-1350	Chapter 3	(4) The Flagellant Movement: Devout Christians or Outright Heretics?
Oct 22	Disease of Exclusion: Leprosy and Lepers * <b>Assignment #1 due</b>	Chapter 2	(5) Japanese Leprosy Control Policies: Necessary or Stigmatizing?
Oct 29	New World Peoples, Old World Diseases, 1492-1650	Chapter 4	(6) Importing Disease: How Best to Control the Exchange of Pathogens?
Nov 5	New Diseases in Europe: Syphilis, Typhus and the Sweating Sickness	Chapter 4	(7) The Sweating Sickness of 1485: A New Disease?

Nov 12	The Great Plague of London, 1665	n/a	(8) William Boghurst's Account: A Cure for the Plague?
Nov 19	<b>Midterm Test</b>		<i>No discussion posting</i>
Nov 26	Workshop: Medical Artifact Collection ( <i>meet in LwH 2260</i> )	n/a	<i>No discussion posting</i>
<b>Winter Term</b>			
Jan 7	Disease and the Enlightenment: Science, Smallpox and Scurvy	Chapters 5, 6	(9) The Human Genome Project: Science at its Best or Super Problem?
Jan 14	Disease and the Body: Challenge and Change	Chapters 5, 6	(10) Dream Anatomy vs. Anatomical Reality: The Effect of Illustrated Anatomy?
Jan 21	Disease and Imperialism: Tropical Diseases	Chapter 9	(11) The Fight Against Malaria: Science Over Nature?
Jan 28	Cholera and Sanitary Reform	Chapter 7	(12) Haiti's Cholera Outbreak: A Humanitarian Disaster?
Feb 4	Tuberculosis and Poverty	Chapter 8	(13) Understanding Tuberculosis: The Role of the Arts?
Feb 11	Coercion and Resistance: Plague in India	Ch 9, pp.198-201	(14) Plague in India: A Medical Dilemma or Cultural Clash?
<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>		<b><i>No discussion posting</i></b>
Feb 25	Venereal Disease: Medical and Policy Changes	Ch 11, pp.259-265	(15) Venereal Disease and Women: A Provocative Public Health Campaign?
Mar 4	Killer Flu: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918 <b>* Assignment #2 due</b>	Ch 11, pp.273-279	(16) Influenza of 1918 and 2009: Was History Repeating Itself?
Mar 11	Influenza Epidemics and Pandemics after 1918	n/a	(17) The Influenza Vaccine and the World Health Organization: Why the Controversy?
Mar 18	Controlling Infectious Diseases: Vaccines and the Public Debate	Ch 10, pp. 234-242; Ch 12, pp.283-295; Ch 11, pp. 266-273	(18) The Vaccine War: Beyond Medical Risks vs. Benefits?
Mar 25	The End of Infectious Diseases? The Antibiotic Revolution	Ch 11, pp. 253-259	(19) "When Antibiotics Stop Working:" Government Regulation Needed?
Apr 1	HIV-AIDS and Global Implications	Ch 12, pp.295-313	(20) Fighting HIV-AIDS in Africa: Government or Cultural Barriers?
Apr 8	SARS, Ebola, Zika: Making History or Repeating History?	n/a	<i>No discussion posting</i>

## Additional Statements

### *Academic Offences:*

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

### ***Accessibility Options:***

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Medical Issues***

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf)

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### ***Plagiarism:***

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above

is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

### ***Scholastic 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:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Support Services***

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### ***Use of Electronic Devices***

Students will not be able to use electronic devices for the mid-term test and final examination unless special approval secured in advance for the use of specific devices.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail [vangalen@uwo.ca](mailto:vangalen@uwo.ca).