

History 2819G

From Cholera to COVID: How Epidemics Change the Way We Live

Winter 2024

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This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description

Epidemics and pandemics exert lasting influence upon demography, community practices and individual lives. With a focus from the turn of the 19th century to the present, this course investigates the impact of disease outbreaks as well as the social and scientific responses to them. Topics will include the role of governments and the increase in (self) surveillance of health; the interaction of technological advance and epidemic disease; social inequality and colonial regimes in relation to disease events; and the interactions of age, race and gender with public health challenges.

Course Syllabus

In this class students will build the following competencies and skills:

- Identify and describe key events and concepts in the history of pandemics from the nineteenth century to the present
- Understand the interdisciplinary nature of investigation in this field of inquiry
- Evaluate diverse forms of historical evidence and cultivate interpretive skills
- Strengthen writing skills with attention to composition for history and related disciplines
- Engage with faculty and peers in a collaborative, respectful atmosphere

Methods of Evaluation

Students must submit the primary source analyses, essay assignment and final exam to pass the course. Late papers may be submitted for up to one week past the deadline and will receive a 10% deduction. For other approved extensions, students may apply to Academic Counselling. Without an approved extension, no primary source analyses or essays will be accepted after one week past the deadline.

Two Online Comprehension Exercises (10% each):	20%
Two primary source analyses (15% each):	30%
Essay Assignment (about 1500 words):	25%
Final Exam (designated exam period):	25%

Make-up final exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

Course Materials

Reading and advance preparation are essential for a successful class. Assignments will be based on class readings and other materials that students find in their own research.

Required Text:

Mitchell L. Hammond, *Epidemics and the Modern World*. Available through the bookstore or online at Weldon Library.

Other readings will be made available in OWL or through Weldon Library.

Additional Statements

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not use any generative AI tools such as ChatGPT for assignments in this course. During the comprehension exercises, you may not consult classmates or post information about answers.

During class, please limit your use of electronic devices to note-taking and other course-related activities.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at:
https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.