

**History 2818F**  
**Plague and Death from Antiquity to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**  
**Fall 2024**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mitchell Hammond

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**Office:** Department of History, Lawson Hall 2218

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a version that includes more information and finalized dates.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

From ancient pestilences to the medieval ‘Black Death’ to outbreaks of plague and yellow fever through the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this course examines the environmental, social and cultural consequences of significant infectious diseases. We will explore how medical experts explained disease and treatment options, and also consider social responses to disease through the lenses of power, class, race and gender.

**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 before 1800.
- 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 all assignments and complete the exam to pass the course.***

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|---|-----|
| Comprehension Exercise 1, completed by September 29:            | 10% |
| Comprehension Exercise 2, completed by November 4:              | 10% |
| One primary source analysis (about 1000 words), due October 22: | 20% |
| Essay Assignment (about 2000 words), due November 26:           | 30% |
| Final Exam (designated exam period):                            | 30% |

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

## **ABSENCES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

**The primary source analysis and the term essay** may be submitted up to three days late without penalty. Thereafter, papers will only be accepted with a consideration approved by Academic Counseling. **The comprehension exercises** will be open for several days and must be completed by the deadline unless a consideration is approved by Academic Counseling. **A makeup final exam** also requires a formal consideration.

## **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. (NOTE: A translated edition in simplified Mandarin is also available.)

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

## **ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

- The best way to reach me outside of class is by e-mail: [mhammo42@uwo.ca](mailto:mhammo42@uwo.ca) . You are welcome to drop by my office during the office hour or we can arrange appointments at other times (either in person or Zoom).
- Please limit your use of devices to note taking and class-related activity. That goes especially for phones!
- ***All work submitted in this course must be your own.*** You may not use any generative or analytical AI tools such as ChatGPT for assignments in this course. During the comprehension exercises, you may not consult classmates or post information about answers.

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](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.