

History 2819G
From Cholera to COVID: How Epidemics Change the Way We Live
Winter 2024

Instructor: Dr. Mitchell Hammond

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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

Epidemics and pandemics exert lasting influence upon demography, community practices and individual lives. With a focus from the early 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 all assignments and complete the exam to pass the course.

Comprehension Exercise 1, completed by February 3	15%
Comprehension Exercise 2, completed by March 17	15%
A primary source analysis (about 1000 words), due January 28	15%
Essay Assignment (about 2500 words), due March 25	30%
This assignment includes footnotes and bibliography	
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.

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 OWL or through Weldon Library.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

- The best way to reach me outside of class is by e-mail: 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 for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.