

**History 2819**  
**From Cholera to COVID: How Epidemics Change the Way We Live**

**Online Summer Term: May 5 to June 13**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mitchell Hammond

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**DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Epidemics and pandemics exert lasting influence upon demography, community practices and individual lives. With a focus from the early 19<sup>th</sup> 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; and the legacy of COVID-19 in historical perspective.

**COURSE DELIVERY:**

**The main course platform (except the final exam) is online and asynchronous.** All required course materials will be available online either through OWL or through the Weldon Library website.

Please plan for a synchronous (not in-person) final exam on **Sunday, June 15**

**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 strategies for history
- Consider recent pandemic threats and current challenges
- Engage with faculty and peers in a collaborative, respectful atmosphere

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

***Students must submit all written assignments and complete the exam to pass the course.***

Online Comprehension Exercise 1 on Tuesday, May 20	15%
Online Comprehension Exercise 2 on Tuesday, June 3	15%
A 500-word research essay prospectus	10%
Essay Assignment (about 2500 words), due <b>Wednesday June 11</b>	30%
This assignment includes footnotes and bibliography	
Final Exam (synchronous but not in person), <b>Sunday June 15</b>	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 term essay** may be submitted up to two days late (on Friday June 13) without penalty. Thereafter, papers will only be accepted with a consideration approved by Academic Counseling. **The comprehension exercises** will be open for two 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**

*Required Text:*

**Mitchell L. Hammond, *Epidemics and the Modern World***. Available through the bookstore (\$62.22) or online at Weldon Library. (NOTE: A translated edition in simplified Mandarin is also available.)

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

### **ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

- ***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 Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness