

**History 2818F, Fall 2026**  
**Plague and Death from Antiquity to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**  
**FIMS/Nursing Bld. 1250      Wednesdays 9:30am-11:30am**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Mitchell Hammond  
**Email:** mhammo42@uwo.ca  
**Office:** Department of History, Lawson Hall 2218  
**Office Hours:** Mondays 2:00-3:00 or by appointment

**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.
- Develop skills in knowledge acquisition and its written and oral performance.
- Engage with faculty and peers in a collaborative, respectful atmosphere.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT POLICIES**

Two in-class quizzes (5% each) on September 23 and October 7:	10%
Midterm Exam on October 28:	20%
In-class writing assignment on November 25:	30%
Final Exam (designated exam period):	40%

**Make-up tests, midterms, and 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.

- If one of the two short exercises is missed (with a consideration), the mark for the other exercise will count twice. If no consideration is approved, or if both are missed, the mark will be 0.
- There will be one designated makeup time TBA for the in-class writing assignment and another for the midterm.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

Reading and advance preparation are essential for a successful class.

*Required Text:*

Mitchell L. Hammond, *Epidemics and the Modern World*. Available through the bookstore or online in the collection at Weldon Library. Paperback \$62.22 (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 . 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!

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.