

HIST 3574

Disease and Society in the Modern World

Tuesday/Thursday 10:00-11:15

204 St John's College

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Office Hours: Wed 10:00-11:00 or by appt

Course Description

Epidemics and infectious disease have shaped the modern world. This course will discuss some significant disease events from 1500 to the present day, emphasizing their relationship to capitalist development, the state, war, imperialism and colonialism. We will explore the connections between the 'biological' and the 'cultural' aspects of infectious disease experiences with plague, cholera, smallpox, influenza, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and others. Infectious disease has often been associated with the stigmatization of those seen as disease carriers; public health measures like quarantine further marginalized certain sectors of society, such as prostitutes, the poor, and migrants. The manner in which disease molds social structures and shapes human agency is a major theme of this course.

Students are not expected to have any prior knowledge of disease history.

Course Format and Expectations

This is a lecture/seminar course. Lectures will provide general context and background for the course readings. Thursdays we will usually discuss assigned readings, either a journal article or a book chapter. Students are expected to have done the reading in advance of class and be prepared to discuss it.

For students planning to major in history, this course will help prepare you for seminar-level (4000) courses. All students will get practice reading advanced scholarly articles, contributing to discussion, and the research methodologies of history.

Textbooks and Course Readings

Weekly readings are available through the UM Library system.

Laura Spinney, *Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How it Changed the World*, New York: Vintage, 2018. Available for purchase at UM Bookstore.

Evaluation

Critical Reading Essay: due **Thursday February 7, 2019**

Length: 1000 words (4 double spaced pages)

Value: 20% of course grade

Research Essay: due **Thursday March 21**

Length: 2000 words (8 double spaced pages)

Value: 35% of course grade

Participation: ongoing

Value: 15% of course grade

Final Examination: **TBA**

Value: 30% of course grade

Marking Scale:

A+ 88-100%

C+ 65-69%

A 80-87%

C 60-64%

B+ 76-79%

D 50-59%

B 70-75%

F 0-49%

Evaluation will be provided before the VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL date of **March 20, 2019**.

Late Penalties

I reserve the right to deduct 5% per day for papers submitted after the due date. Papers will not be accepted after the last day of lectures, Friday April 9, 2019.

Teaching Philosophy

I am trained as a Canadian historian, and a historian of health and disease. Most of my own work has been in two areas: the history of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic, and the relationship between social inequality and health. I just finished writing a book about radical health politics in the 1930s and '40s.

Helping students to improve their academic skills is important to me. Historians love elegant writing, and my job is to help you write well, with your own voice. I encourage students to share their drafts with me and receive feedback. I will work with you to improve your writing. It is important to remember that writing, like anything, improves with practice.

I am often in my office, 209 St John's College, so drop in anytime. I am terrible with names, but I like to get to know each individual student. Your mental health and wellbeing are important to me. If you need someone to talk to, please reach out.

Academic Integrity and Grade Appeal

The University's regulations re: plagiarism, cheating and impersonation may be found in the section on "Academic Integrity" of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar and Catalogue, and the Faculty of Arts regulation at:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html which reads:

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

PLEASE REMEMBER -- Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within TEN (10) working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Student Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC):

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Student Counseling Centre

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>

UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)

UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our instagram account www.instagram.com/umhisa_undergrad/ or by emailing umhisau@gmail.com.