

Human Biology and Culture Change Anth 232-01, Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Tracy Betsinger
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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00pm
Wednesday 10:00-11:00am & 3:00-4:00pm
Friday 12:00-1:00pm and by appointment



Class Time and Location: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 11:50am, Fitzelle 308

Required Texts:

- Articles available on Angel

Course Catalog Listing: This course examines the biological impact of culture change within the human species over the past 12,000 years, focusing primarily on changes in health and disease and demography in foraging, agricultural, and industrial societies. Topics include: principles of epidemiology, the ecology of disease, principles of demography, health and demography of foraging societies, the transition to agriculture, the rise of civilization and urbanism, culture contact, the epidemiologic and demographic transitions of modern times, and contemporary and future issues. (LA)
Prerequisite: SoS.

Course Overview: This course focuses on how culture affects human biology through changes in population size, settlement patterns, diet, infectious pathogen exposure, and technology. At the foundation of this course are two principle concepts: epidemiology and demography. The course will examine how epidemiologic and demographic shifts have affected biology throughout the course of modern human history.

Course Objectives:

- (1) To understand the principles of epidemiology and demography.
- (2) To know how aspects of epidemiology and demography shift with large cultural changes.
- (3) To recognize the key shifts in human culture that elicit changes in the health and well-being of populations.
- (4) To understand the history, purpose, and efficacy of public health practices.
- (5) To understand the foundation of Darwinian medicine and how it applies to modern humans.

Course Requirements:

- 1. Two Midterms and One Final Exam:** Exams are not comprehensive. The exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, essay and/or other appropriate types of questions. Details of the exam format will be provided prior to each exam. Exams are based on course lectures, readings, and films.
- 2. Critical Review:** You will write one critical review of your choice of the assigned articles. This assignment is designed to improve your critical thinking skills and help pull together ideas and concepts from lectures.
- 3. Quizzes:** There will be five quizzes over the course of the semester. Details regarding the quizzes will be provided in class.
- 4. Assignments:** You will complete a variety of assignments, including short presentations, responses to readings, and responses to films. Details about each assignment, including due date will be provided in class.
- 5. Participation:** Your participation and attendance is essential to performing well in this class. Unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade. Part of your participation points will be

based on “Hot Topics.” Each student will be expected to provide a website and short summary of a current news topic that relates to the course. Students will be responsible for doing this two times during the semester.

Grading:

Two Midterms and Final Exam – 80 points each	240
Critical Essay	30
Quizzes – 10 points each	50
Assignments – 10 points each	50
Participation	30
TOTAL POINTS	400

Course Guidelines:

Grading:

Final grades are based on a standardized scale using the total number of points available for the course: (A: 366-400, A-: 358-365, B+: 350-357, B: 326-349, B-: 318-325, C+: 310-317, C: 286-317, C-: 278-285, D+: 270-277, D: 246-269, D-: 238-245, E: 0-237).

Attendance:

Attendance is expected. If you miss a lecture, lecture notes will not be provided. The class begins promptly; as a courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, please be on time. You are responsible for any material missed due to tardiness. Remember that the course outline is only a guideline and is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. You **MUST** provide documentation for an absence to be excused. If you miss class for any other reason, you do not need to contact me.

Missed Exam Policy: If you have to miss an exam, you must notify the instructor within 24 hours AND provide appropriate documentation in order to take a make-up exam. The instructor reserves the right to give an essay exam in place of the missed exam.

Participation:

In this class, it is essential that you not only attend class, but that you participate as well. Participation includes active listening, preparation for class by reading materials and completing assignments, taking part in group exercises, and contributing to class discussions. While a certain amount of class time will be devoted to lecture, I expect you to participate by asking questions about materials or topics you do not understand. Furthermore, I expect you to respect others’ opinions, so that everyone may feel comfortable participating in class.

Office Hours:

My office hours are a minimum; please feel free to stop by my office, email me, or call my office number if you have questions outside of class time. I am here to assist you; please make use of me! These hours are set aside for you to address problems, clear up misunderstandings, or to receive extra help with course material. These hours are not substitutes for lectures. I strongly urge you to make use of this time. If you cannot come during these hours, I will be happy to make an appointment convenient to both of us. Alternate office hours will be announced in class should I have to miss my scheduled hours.

Late Assignments:

All late assignments will receive a 10% reduction of the grade for each day it is late.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORMAT**. The work you do in this course should be your own. Please see the university’s Code of Student Conduct

(<http://www.oneonta.edu/development/judicial/code.asp#conduct>) to familiarize yourself with the university's rules and policies. Ignorance of the rules will NOT be accepted as an excuse.

Cell Phones:

Out of courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, *please turn off your cell phones, iPods, and the like prior to coming to class.*

Emergency Evacuation/Shelter-in-Place Procedures

In the event of an emergency evacuation (i.e., fire or other emergency), classes meeting in this building are directed to reassemble at **IRC lobby** so that all persons can be accounted for. Complete details of the College's emergency evacuation, shelter-in-place and other emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.oneonta.edu/security/>.

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1

Jan. 25 (W) Introduction

27 (F) Epidemiology

READING ASSIGNMENT

Merrill & Timmreck, 2006

WEEK 2

30 (M) Disease

Feb. 1 (W) Epidemiologic Transition
Disease Presentations

Assignment #1 - Disease PowerPoint due by 8am

3 (F) Disease Presentations
QUIZ #1

Wills, 1996

WEEK 3

6 (M) Epidemics

8 (W) Epidemics – *Influenza 1918*

10 (F) Epidemic Presentations

Assignment #1 - Epidemic PowerPoint due by 8am

Hewlett and Hewlett, 2008

WEEK 4

13 (M) Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases

15 (W) Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases

17 (F) Demography
QUIZ #2

McKenna, 2004

WEEK 5

20 (M) Demography

22 (W) Demography

24 (F) Demographic Transition

2011 World Population Data
Sheet

WEEK 627 (M) **Exam One**29 (W) Paleopathology / Bioarchaeology
** Assignment #2 Due**

Larsen & Walker, 2010

Mar. 2 (F) Hunter-gatherers

WEEK 7

5 (M) Hunter-gatherers

Larsen, 1995; Diamond 1999a

7 (W) Transition to Agriculture

9 (F) Transition to Agriculture

WEEK 8

12 (M) Urbanization

14 (W) Urbanization

16 (F) Urbanization – *Black Death*
QUIZ #3**WEEK 9 NO CLASSES:** March 17-25, 2012**WEEK 10**26 (M) Industrialization
** Assignment #3 Due **

28 (W) Industrialization

30 (F) Industrialization

WEEK 11Apr. 2 (M) **Exam Two**

4 (W) Historical Culture Contact

Diamond, 1999b

6 (F) Historical Culture Contact

WEEK 129 (M) Historical Culture Contact – *Syphilis Enigma*

Drexler, 2010

11 (W) Globalization

13 (F) Globalization
QUIZ #4**WEEK 13**

16 (M) Globalization

Boaz, 2002

18 (W) Darwinian Medicine

20 (F) Darwinian Medicine

WEEK 14

23 (M) Public Health
** Assignment #4 Due **

Walzer Leavitt, 1996

25 (W) Public Health
Critical Essay Due

27 (F) Public Health – *Typhoid Mary*

WEEK 15

30 (M) Public Health

May 2 (W) Contemporary and Future Issues

4 (F) Contemporary and Future Issues
QUIZ #5

WEEK 16

7 (M) Review Session
** Assignment #5 Due **

**** FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 14, 11:00am – 1:30pm****