

Human Biology and Culture Change Anth 232-01, Autumn 2009

Instructor: Dr. Tracy Betsinger
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
12:00pm-1:00pm and by appointment



Class Time and Location: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:00- 2:50pm, Fitzelle 319

Required Texts:

- Boaz, Noel. *Evolving Health: The Origins of Illness and How the Modern World is Making Us Sick*. 2002. John Wiley and Sons.
- Larsen, Clark S. *Skeletons in Our Closet: Revealing Our Past through Bioarchaeology*. 2000. Princeton University Press.
- Wills, Christopher. *Yellow Fever, Black Goddess: The Coevolution of Peoples and Plagues*. 1996. Addison-Wesley.

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, textbooks, handouts, and any additional readings or films.
2. **Critical Reviews (3):** You will write three critical reviews during the semester, one for each of the required texts. See the Course Schedule for due dates. These assignments are designed to improve your critical thinking skills and help pull together ideas and concepts from lectures.
3. **In Class Work:** Occasionally, there will be short assignments for class. These will be announced in class prior to their due dates.

- 4. Participation and Attendance** – Your participation and attendance is mandatory and is worth approximately 2 points per week. Except under documented circumstances, each absence will result in the loss of points toward your total grade. If you miss an exam, you will need a documented excuse in order to make it up.

Grading:

Two Midterms and Final Exam – 80 points each	240
Critical Essays – 30 points each	90
In class work	20
Participation and Attendance	30
TOTAL POINTS	380

Course Guidelines:

Grading:

Final grades are based on a standardized scale using the total number of points available for the course: (A: 348-380, A-: 341-347, B+: 333-340, B: 310-332, B-: 303-309, C+: 295-302, C: 272-294, C-: 265-271, D+: 257-264, D: 234-256, D-: 227-233, E: 0-226).

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. 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 and Pagers:

Out of courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, *please turn off your pagers and cell phones 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

August 26 (W) Introduction

28 (F) Epidemiology

WEEK 2

31 (M) What is Disease?

Sept. 2 (W) Epidemiology

4 (F) Epidemiologic Transition

WEEK 3

7 (M) Epidemics

9 (W) Epidemics

11 (F) Epidemics

WEEK 4

14 (M) Epidemics

16 (W) Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases

18 (F) Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases

WEEK 5

21 (M) Discussion of "Yellow Fever, Black Goddess" (**Wills book review due**)
Demography

23 (W) Demography

25 (F) Demographic Transition

WEEK 6

28 (M) NO CLASSES

30 (W) **Exam One**

Oct. 2 (F) Paleopathology

WEEK 7

5 (M) Hunter-gatherers

7 (W) Hunter-gatherers

9 (F) Transition to Agriculture

WEEK 8

12 (M) Transition to Agriculture

14 (W) Urbanization

16 (F) Urbanization

WEEK 9

19 (M) Urbanization

21 (W) Discussion of "Skeletons in Our Closet" (**Larsen book review due**)

24 (F) Industrialization

WEEK 10

26 (M) Industrialization

28 (W) Industrialization

30 (F) **Exam Two**

WEEK 11

Nov. 2 (M) Historical Culture Contact

4 (W) Historical Culture Contact

6 (F) Historical Culture Contact

WEEK 12

9 (M) Globalization

11 (W) Globalization

13 (F) Globalization

WEEK 13

16 (M) Public Health

18 (W) Public Health

20 (F) Public Health

WEEK 14 NO CLASSES: Nov. 23-27

WEEK 15

30 (M) Public Health

Dec. 2 (W) Darwinian Medicine

4 (F) Discussion of "Evolving Health" (**Boaz book review due**)

WEEK 16

7 (M) Darwinian Medicine

9 (W) Contemporary and Future Issues

11 (F) Review Session

**** Final Exam: Monday, December 14, 11:00am – 1:30pm**