HUMAN BIOLOGY AND CULTURE CHANGE
ANTH 232-01, Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Tracy Betsinger
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:30am or by appointment

Class Time and Location: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:00-12:50pm, HECO 204

Course Description: Why are disease outbreaks so commonplace? Is the human population too large to be sustained? Why can I thank a farmer for my smartphone? Will climate change make me sick? It is an unavoidable fact that culture greatly impacts the biology of humans, both in the past and in today’s modern world. The ways in which humans acquire their food and the major shifts in culture accompanying these are the main sources of this impact. Together, we will explore these shifts and how and why the health and demography of populations was affected. We will examine how health is directly related to economics, and we will investigate how health may change in the future due to globalization and climate change. We will also explore how public health practices on a local, national, and global scale seek to improve population health and control population increase.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, you will be able to understand various concepts and terms related to epidemiology and demography. You will have a better feel for the interconnectedness of biology and culture and be able to relate course material to the "real world." You will know the major changes throughout human history that have affected human health, and you will be able to recognize the impact of economics on health in the past and today.

In this course, in addition to what is mentioned above, you will get a chance to practice your reading comprehension, communication, and critical thinking skills as we discuss various books and articles. You will also be completing short, ungraded writing assignments in order to synthesize materials and address your questions or concerns.

If you would like to read the more formal version of these course objectives, please see the document on our course Blackboard page.

Course Requirements: (Note: further details on each requirement will be provided during the semester.)

(1) Participation (100 points) – Attendance and active, informed participation in class discussions are vital aspects of this course. You should come to class having read any assignments, bringing thoughts, arguments, and questions for discussion. Unexcused absences will affect your participation grade. Participation will also include "hot topics" and ungraded writing assignments, such as
book/article summaries or analyses, in-class free-writes, discussion questions, and passage commentaries, which will generally be submitted via Blackboard.

(2) **Midterm Exam** (100 points) – This exam will test your comprehension of basic topics related to course content. Exam format will be provided prior to the exam.

(3) **Popular and Primary** (25 points) – This short, written assignment will give you the opportunity to compare popular press coverage of a course-related topic versus original research on the topic.

(4) **Fact Finder** (50 points) – This assignment will enable you to research course-related events during the week/month/year of a parent’s or grandparent’s birth. You will compare how it was covered in the media or understood during that time period versus how it is covered or understood today. Working in small groups, you will present your findings to the class.

(5) **Book Evaluation** (100 points) – This assignment will focus on one of the books we will be reading this semester. Working in small groups, you will research book reviews from scholarly journals and compare those critiques with the group’s assessment of the book.

(6) **Final Exam** (100 points) – This exam will test your overall understanding of ‘big picture’ topics that we have discussed throughout the semester. This is a take-home essay exam.

(7) **Infographic** (25 points) – During the final exam period, you and a small group of students will create an infographic to address a question I pose to you. You will create and share your infographic during this final class meeting.

**Course Materials:**
- Additional articles, available on course Blackboard page.

**Course Resources:**
- Don’t forget that I am a resource for you! Please visit me during office hours; if you are unavailable during those times, contact me to arrange for an appointment.
- In addition to the books assigned for this course, you will be reading a number of articles that are available on our course Blackboard page. If you need assistance with accessing or using Blackboard, please see me or contact the IT Help Desk in the basement of Milne Library (436-4567, helpme@oneonta.edu)
- As writing will be an integral part of this course, feel free to seek assistance. The College Writing Center can provide instruction and consultation to improve your writing style. You can find them in 225 Alumni Hall (436-3010, cade@oneonta.edu).
- If you need help finding additional materials, such as books, journal articles, etc., you should contact the very helpful Reference Librarians at Milne Library. They
perform one-on-one research consultations. Fill out the request form at the following link: http://www.oneonta.edu/library/research/researchconsultation.aspx

- If you have any type of disability (including learning disabilities, test anxiety, etc.), please contact Student Disability Services in 209 Alumni Hall (436-2137; sds@oneonta.edu) to obtain an accommodation plan. Then, be sure to share the plan with me so we can make any and all necessary arrangements.

**Course Schedule:** The schedule provided is tentative and may be changed at any time. I will announce any schedule changes in class and put announcements on our Blackboard page.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 1</strong></td>
<td>Jan. 18 (W)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Epidemiology and Disease</td>
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<td>Jan. 20 (F)</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Disease</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 2</strong></td>
<td>23 (M)</td>
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<td>25 (W)</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Disease</td>
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<td>27 (F)</td>
<td>Demography</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 3</strong></td>
<td>30 (M)</td>
<td>Demography</td>
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<td>Feb. 1 (W)</td>
<td>Demography</td>
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<td>3 (F)</td>
<td>Epidemiics</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 4</strong></td>
<td>6 (M)</td>
<td>Epidemics</td>
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<td>8 (W)</td>
<td>Epidemics</td>
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<td>10 (F)</td>
<td>Emerging Diseases</td>
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<td>Ghost Map</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 5</strong></td>
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<td>15 (W)</td>
<td>Emerging Diseases</td>
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<td>17 (F)</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 6</strong></td>
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<td>22 (W)</td>
<td>Hunter-Gatherers</td>
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<td>Hunter-Gatherers</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 7</strong></td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>Guns, Germs, Steel (ch. 1,4,5,6,8,11)</td>
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<td>Mar. 1 (W)</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>3 (F)</td>
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<td>Guns, Germs, Steel</td>
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March 6-10: Spring Break – NO CLASSES

WEEK 8
13 (M) Urbanization
15 (W) Urbanization
17 (F) Urbanization

WEEK 9
20 (M) Industrialization Steckel et al,2008
22 (W) Industrialization
24 (F) Industrialization
Fact Finder Due

WEEK 10
27 (M) Culture Contact Guns, Germs, Steel
(prol., ch.15-19, epi)
29 (W) Culture Contact Guns, Germs, Steel
31 (F) Culture Contact Guns, Germs, Steel

WEEK 11
Apr. 3 (M) Globalization Saker et al, 2006
5 (W) Globalization Popkin et al, 2006
7 (F) Globalization

WEEK 12
10 (M) Public Health Typhoid Mary
(intro, ch.2,4,6, con)
12 (W) Public Health Typhoid Mary
14 (F) Public Health Typhoid Mary

WEEK 13
17 (M) NO CLASSES (INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE)
19 (W) NO CLASSES (INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE)
21 (F) NO CLASSES (INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE)

WEEK 14
24 (M) Contemporary Issues TBD
Book Evaluation Due
26 (W) Contemporary Issues TBD
28 (F) Contemporary Issues TBD

WEEK 15
May 1 (M) Contemporary Issues TBD

** FINAL EXAM PERIOD: Monday, May 8, 11:00am-1:30pm**
Course Guidelines and Other Details:

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.

SUNY Student Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods scientists use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis; and knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences.


Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. For an excused absence, please contact the instructor. For a list of college approved excused absences, see the College Handbook. (http://www.oneonta.edu/collegehandbook/excused-absences.asp)

Missed Exam & Late Assignment 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. Deadlines are firm, but extensions requested ahead of time may be granted. Any assignment submitted late without consultation with me will receive a 10% grade reduction for each day it is late.

Academic Honesty: The work in this course should represent your thoughts, ideas, and understanding of course material. When working in groups, the material should reflect a joint effort of all group members. It is completely acceptable to discuss your ideas, thoughts, and understanding with your classmates, as we will be spending a lot of time discussing course material. When completing an assignment, if you have borrowed, summarized, or otherwise utilized information that is not your original thoughts (this includes material from reading assignments, class discussions, out-of-class discussions, websites, or other media), be sure to provide proper credit to the source, even if it is not a direct quote. Failing to do so constitutes plagiarism. It is always preferable to submit an assignment late rather than submitting plagiarized materials. If you need assistance with citing sources, completing a bibliography, or the like, contact me or contact the College Writing Center (see Course Resources above). If you have further questions regarding campus policy on academic honesty, see the Code of Student Contact (http://www.oneonta.edu/development/judicial/code.asp#conduct). Feel free to contact me regarding questions you may have about what constitutes plagiarism. You will not be penalized for doing so!

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 Chase Gymnasium 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/.