**VERSION 3**

Un-Common Read: ***The Ghost Map***

IDH 2930 (1 Credit; Section 1G17) – Fall 2017

**Syllabus**

**Instructor**: Joseph J. Delfino, PhD, BCES

Professor Emeritus, Environmental Engineering Sciences

Adjunct Lecturer, Honors Program

**Contact Information:**

* Preferred initial contact is via E-mail to [delfino@ufl.edu](mailto:delfino@ufl.edu)
* Primary Office Hours: Open door, Wed., 9:30 – 11 AM in 310 AP Black Hall
* Alternate: By appointment – arrange in advance via email or in class

**Class Time and Location:**

* Wednesday, 11:45 AM – 12:35 PM (5th Period) in Room 117 Little Hall

**Course Narrative:**

* This is a one credit discussion seminar course and will formally meet for one class period on Wednesday each week at 11:45 AM [5th Period] in **Little Hall Room 117**.
* Each registrant will be responsible for leading or co-leading discussion sessions covering assigned reading from the (un)common reading book [***The Ghost Map***] and other material approved by the instructor or available from the web. Discussion leaders will be expected to research a topic beyond the assigned reading for their session(s) by finding appropriate examples from other sources.
* PowerPoint slides may be used by the presenters but are not required.
* A **writing exercise [i.e. a paper] is required** [paper length: five pages (5); topic approved by the instructor; details provided in class] on a topic related to the course reading book or public and environmental health. Short essays may be periodically assigned.

**Course Objectives:** To

* Learn the concepts underlying epidemiology and public health as exemplified in *The Ghost Map* and to understand how diseases can spread among populations.
* Apply epidemiology and public health concepts to critical global health issues.
* Learn current technology relating to water and wastewater protection and other topics in environmental engineering and science directed toward protecting public health.

**Course Grading:**

* Grades will be issued based on: (a) the quality of discussion preparation and delivery that a student gives in class; (b) the student’s attendance and participation in class discussions when others are making their presentations; and (c) the written paper.
* Final letter grades will be based on the following distribution of effort:
  + a) Individual classroom oral presentation(s) (35 pts);
  + b) Attendance (15 pts ; active participation in classroom discussions

(15 pts);

* + c) Writing assignments – 5-page paper and brief essays (35 pts).
* **Letter grades** will be assigned according to the number of points earned, using 100 points as the maximum earnable points and the ranges given below:
  + A and A- (100 – 90 pts)
  + B+, B (89 – 80 pts)
  + B-, C+, C (79 – 70 pts)
  + C-, D+, D (69 – 60 Pts)
  + E (< 60 pts).
* **Attendance** and **Absences.** Weekly attendance in class is required since there are limited class meetings during the semester. Unexcused absences will be reflected in the attendance portion of the course grade with each such absence resulting in a 5 pt. grading penalty. After three unexcused absences, no points will be allowed for class attendance. On occasion, a brief written assignment may substitute for a class meeting.
* Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Absences count beginning with the second class meeting.
* In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g. field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) can be excused in advance. Other reasons also may be approved.
* Students should discuss with the instructor any optional assignment required to make up the material or activities covered in the class that was missed.
* Students cannot participate in classes unless they are officially registered. The Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls to instructors.
* If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course in which they are registered, and he or she has not contacted the Honors Program or instructor to indicate his or her intent, the student may automatically be dropped from the course. If a student has any questions about this, contact the Honors Program office or the Instructor.
* The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After unexcused absences and due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for unexcused absences.

**Course Text**:

***The Ghost Map***, by Steven Johnson. Riverhead Books (Penguin Group), 2006. ISBN: 978-1-59448-269-4. The book should be available from the UF Bookstore and from on-line sources.

**Academic Honesty**:

Students at UF commit themselves to uphold the Honor Code, and have accepted the pledge: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.”*

All homework, reports, and papers must represent a student’s own individual work unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Plagiarism in writing assignments is not acceptable and violates the Honor Code. Such violations will receive severe grading penalties and will be reported to the Dean of Students as well as the student’s College Dean and the Honors Program Director. Students have the responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Full details are available on the Honor Code website: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/resources/shca>

**Class Schedule:**

Week 2017 The Ghost Map Topic Leader(s)

1 Aug 23 Introduction Dr. D.

2 Aug 30 Public Health – Envtl. Laws Dr. D.

3 Sep 6 Public Health Dr. D.

4 Sep 13 Alachua County Health Dept. Paul Myers, ACPHD

5 Sep 20 UF Water Reclamation Plant Dr. D. [field trip]

6 Sep 27 Discussion or Guest Lecturer TBA

7 Oct 4 Class Discussion on Book Class Members

8 Oct 11 Discussion Assigned Student(s)

9 Oct 18 Discussion Assigned Student(s)

10 Oct 25 Discussion Assigned Student(s)

11 Nov 1 TBD TBD

12 Nov 8 Discussion Assigned Student(s)

13 Nov 15 Discussion Assigned Student(s)

5-pg. written paper due

14 Nov 22 No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday Break Begins

15 Nov 29 Discussion Assigned Student(s)

16 Dec 6 Last Class – Wrap-up Dr. D.

**Software Use:**

* All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Campus Help Resources:**

* Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Recourses are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance:
* *University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road,* 352-392-1601, [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/) Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, Training Programs, Community Provider Database.
* *Career Resource Center,* 1st Floor, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 392-1601, [www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)

**Students with Disabilities Act:**

* Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resources Center (352-392-8565) or [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Course Evaluations:**

* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

**Religious Observations:**

* Request for excused absences from class to allow participation in religious observations should be made to the instructor as a courtesy in advance of the absence. If a student requesting this absence is scheduled to be leading a discussion on that day, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange with another student in the class to switch the dates and topics of their previously established requirements. Please inform the instructor of this “trade” in advance of the day in which it is to occur.

**Approximate Course Schedule (to be adjusted depending on enrollment); see Class Schedule earlier in this Syllabus for activities each week; listed here are specific assignments in addition to the Syllabus schedule:**

**August 23 through October 4, 2017 [action date in brackets]**

+ Obtain The Ghost Map book and start reading it August 23]

+ Final submission of Bio-Sketches and photos [August 23]

+ Submit topic choice(s) for the written paper that is due November 15 and student-led discussions that start October 11 [Sept. 6]

+ Field Trip to UF Water Reclamation Facility [September 20]

+ Discussion leaders assigned for student-led discussions [September 20]

+ General Class discussion on *The Ghost Map* [October 4]

**October 11, 2017 and subsequent dates [see Syllabus]**

+ Student presentations begin, based on topics covered by the written papers

**November 15, 2017**

+ Written paper (5-page, double spaced, printed out) due in class.

**Useful Reference sources**:

1. <http://www.theghostmap.com/>

2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ghost_Map>

3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epidemiology>

4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germ_theory_of_disease>

5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miasma_theory>

6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P8shnNEXb4>

<https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_johnson_tours_the_ghost_map?language=en>

7. <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/12/books/review/Quammen.t.html>

8. <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/our-work/medical-issues/cholera?source=ADD170U0U02&utm_source=AdWords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=GoogleGrant&utm_content=nonbrand&gclid=CLHC5PzQhNUCFY5Zhgod3QsDVg>

9. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cholera>

10. <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/06/24/534236954/yemen-now-faces-the-worst-cholera-outbreak-in-the-world-u-n-says>

11. <http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html>

12. <http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-the-ghost-map/>

Version 1: July 21, 2017

Version 2: August 4, 2017

Version 3: August 23, 2017