

COURSE SYLLABUS

IDH 2930: (Un)COMMON READS : Patient Zero: A Brief History of the Science Stories Behind the World's Worst Diseases

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Required Text: *Patient Zero: A Curious History of the World's Worst Diseases* by Lydia Kang

Course Description:

Patient Zero: A Curious History of the World's Worst Disease by Lydia Kang is a nonfictional account of disease outbreaks through history. As the title implies, there is a focus on how each disease starts, and then how they spread. The book brings light the social and historical events around each disease and the scientific theories or breakthroughs at the time. This is a timely book for current events and placing our new reality into context with a history of infectious disease.

The Course: This seminar style course, defined by classroom conversation, will provide students the opportunity to read and discuss *Patient Zero* gradually over the semester. Weekly discussions will reflect on the history of outbreaks, infectious disease theory, social and political influence, and scientific and medical advancements. Student assessment will be based on classroom participation, completion of readings, and three brief (one-page) writing responses to assigned topics. Additionally, students will have the option of attending the pathology lab/morgue for brain cutting, providing the pandemic allows.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

1. List outbreaks spanning documented history
2. Analyze the influence of current social landscapes on the approach to outbreaks
3. Be familiar with scientific advancements in the containment and treatment of contagious disease

Course Schedule Date	Topic	Readings (pages) to be done PRIOR to the class / Assignment Due
8/29	Intro	Introductions and Course Overview
9/5	Holiday *no class	Intro, Ergotism, Zoonoses, Ebola, Germ theory
9/12	Self Study *no class	
9/19	Infection	
9/26	FIELD TRIP - Morgue, Brain cutting	Plague, Autopsy, Mad Cow
10/3	Guest Speaker – covid	Outbreak, yellow Fever, Covid *Reflection #1 due*
10/10	Guest Speaker - HIV	HIV
10/17	Spread	Exchange, typhus, measles
10/24	Ethics	Leprosy, syphilis
10/31	Media	Quackery, Typhoid
11/7	Guest Speaker – vaccines	1918, vaccines *Reflection #2 due*
11/14	Infection-disease link	Polio, Hep C, Infection-disease link
11/21	Guest speaker - warfare	Anthrax, Biological warfare
11/28	Monkeypox	Rabies, TB, smallpox
12/5	Final thoughts	*Reflection #3 due*

Assignments and Grades:

Assessment methods will include class participation and attendance, completion of readings, classroom discussion activities, and three one-page papers on a few of the themes.

Attendance 20 points

Class participation 30 points

Papers (2) 30 points (15 points each)

Final Reflection paper (1) 20 points

All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the due date and must be submitted via the Canvas course site or email. You will receive ½ credit for all late assignments up to one week from the due date.

Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted. A grade of Incomplete (I) will not be issued under any circumstance. UF grading policies are described at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Grading Scale: 93-100 (A); 90-92 (A-); 87-89 (B+); 83-86 (B); 80-82 (B-); 77-79 (C+); 73-76 (C); 70-72 (C-); 67-69 (D+); 60-66 (D); 60-62 (D-); Below 59 (E)

Attendance: Since this is a discussion-based class, attendance and participation is important. Your final grade will be dropped an entire letter grade for each additional absence after 2.

Requirements for class attendance and assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.”

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor

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/>.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.”

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.