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HSTR 391.01: Plagues, People, and the Environment

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Plagues, People and Environment

Course: HSTR 391 (Spring 2022 - 34295)

Classroom: Liberal Arts 244

Time: 12:30pm-1:50pm

Instructor: Leif Fredrickson

Contact: leif.fredrickson@umontana.edu

Office hours: Tuesday 2pm-4pm ([Zoom](#))

Description

This class is about plagues and pandemics: Massive disease events that spread across continents and the globe. We'll look at how environments and social conditions gave rise to, and shaped, diseases. And we'll look at how those diseases disrupted, devastated and otherwise shaped human societies and groups within them. Pandemics covered will include: the Black Death, smallpox, cholera, the 1918 flu, polio, malaria, AIDS and COVID-19. We'll zoom out to look at the global dynamics of pandemics and zoom in to see how pandemics played out at the local level in places like Missoula, Montana. We'll go back in time to the roots of human evolution, and come up to the present to look at the current pandemic we've been living through. Together, we'll work on a public history project about the history of disease in Missoula.

Learning outcomes: After completing this course, students will:

- Understand key aspects of past pandemics – how they changed history; how people understood, experienced and responded to them
 - Analyze local history in broader historical and comparative context
 - Use the past to interpret and understand the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Think critically about the how history can be applied to, or used in, the present
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Overview

Grades/Assignments

20% - Online short responses

20% - In-class discussion/attendance

15% - Sanitation assignment

20% - Flu assignment

25% - Final paper

Readings

There is no required text to buy for this class. We will read a variety of short texts and explore a variety of other media.

Moodle

We will use Moodle to make announcements, submit short responses, and describe/link/upload assignments.

In-person classes

Classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion.

Lecture/discussion recording

Students should note that, when possible, the class will be recorded.

COVID

Please see the detailed policies regarding COVID on page three of this syllabus.

Changes

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change.

Class Policies

Inclusive environment

I welcome and respect student diversity in gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race and religion. If you have any religious events that conflict with the class, please let me know. More generally, if you have any concerns or suggestions for making the class more inclusive or welcoming, for you or other students, please tell me.

Class conduct

Respect each other. Listen to others and be serious and careful in talking to others and discussing sensitive issues.

Late assignments and assignment revisions

I accept late assignments, often with no penalty. I also usually accept assignment revisions. Please talk to me as soon as possible if you think you will be late submitting an assignment, if you would like to complete an assignment that is past due, or if you would like to try to revise an assignment you have handed in. I am very willing to work with students on these issues, but it is up to you to initiate making up missed assignments or revising assignments.

Plagiarism and cheating

Plagiarism is the use of another person's phrasing or ideas without crediting that person (whether it is a verbatim quote or not). If in doubt, give credit to the source and/or ask me. Plagiarism/cheating can result in total loss of credit for assignments/tests.

Resources and Help

Disability

UM assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office of Disability Equity (ODE). If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact ODE. Location: Lommasson Center 154. Phone: 406-243-2243 Website: <https://www.umt.edu/disability/Students/inquire/default.php>. I will work with you and ODE to provide appropriate accommodations.

Student support for writing, public speaking, study, test taking, technology and more

Office for Student Success: <http://www.umt.edu/oss/>, 406-243-2800

Mental health counseling

Curry Health Center Counseling: 406-243-4711. Crisis/Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

*Please contact me if you have any concerns at any time, whether they are related to the class or not. **I am here to help you feel welcome and help you succeed!***

Covid information and policies

For important communications, FAQs, and other information from the UM, see the [University of Montana Coronavirus information page](#).

The UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.

Key policies

- Mask use is required within the classroom and in other enclosed buildings where we have class time.
- When we are outside, students do not need to wear masks.
- Mask use is required in vehicles when traveling to field trip sites.
- Please spread out in class and sit in the same seat each day to facilitate contact tracing.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class. Do contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- **If you are sick, isolating or quarantining, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. When possible, classes will be recorded for you to listen to. Alternatives to lectures/discussions and assignments will be provided as needed.**
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.

Assignments and Grade Breakdown

Short Responses

Short responses are brief, written responses to prompts based on readings or other media you explore. In some cases, you may also be asked to do other short tasks or assignments, or to engage in online discussion. Your response should be short, but of high quality, and it should be based on thorough engagement with the reading/media for that day, as well as lectures and other material we've discussed. Your response is due by 11am the day it is listed on the class schedule. You will not get a grade for each individual response, but I will periodically update your response grade. You are welcome to inquire any time about your current response grade.

Discussion/Attendance

I will take attendance every day and you will be graded on that as well as the quality of your participation in class. Good quality participation means: Good questions, thoughtful comments and engaged and respectful listening. If you are absent, your discussion grade is 0 for that day. You can, however, make up discussion grades for missed classes. It is up to you to reach out to me to ask to make up a discussion grade for a missed class. As with the short responses, I will periodically update your discussion/attendance grade, and you are welcome to inquire any time about your current response grade.

Sanitation Assignment

See description in Moodle.

Flu Assignment

See description in Moodle.

Final paper

See description in Moodle.

Letter grades

A	93–100% - "A (+/-)" is for exceptional work.
A–	90–92%
B+	87–89%
B	83–86% - "B (+/-)" is good quality work that meets the requirement of the assignment.
B–	80–82%
C+	77–79%
C	73–76% - "C (+/-)" is work that meets some requirements of the assignment.
C–	70–72%
D+	67–69%
D	63–66%
D–	60–62%
F	0–59%