 brief synopsis

This course is a 4000 level seminar for students in the Bachelor of Arts and Science Program. This course will use the study of bacteria, viruses and infection throughout history and the contemporary world to provide students with the opportunity to develop research skills, solidify critical thinking skills, enhance oral and written communication and to work in groups as well as individually.

This course will use bacteria, viruses, and infection as a vehicle to discuss a variety of themes and disciplines. The following is a partial list of some of the topics that we will discuss throughout the semester:

- Introduction to bacteria: microbiology, physiology, principles of infection
- Contemporary outbreaks: Ebola
- Antibiotic discovery
- Human immunodeficiency virus
- Gender and infection through the ages
- Sexuality, infection, viruses and bacteria
- Bacterial anthropology: history, trends, techniques, applications
- Infection control in the hospital
- Neuroscience, the gut bacteriome and autism
- Commercial applications of bacteria
- Bacteria and the environment
- Zoonoses
- Pandemics and outbreaks: then and now
- Bacteria and art

instructor

Dr. Jordan Willcox PhD  

iwillcox@uoguelph.ca

I am employed as a sessional lecturer for the fall term at the University of Guelph. As such, I am concurrently employed at a hospital where I work in hospital administration. Therefore, it is best to contact my by email. I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible to enquiries; however there may be times when I am not able to respond right away.

Office hours are by appointment. My office is in MACK 044.
Course Design

Once each week, we will meet for three hours. Each class will be a mix of small lectures, group work, and class discussion. For the group work, the class will be split into groups of eight where you will be tasked with an assignment that will be related to the topic we are discussing in class. These problems will require critical analysis and thinking and allow you to enhance your oral communication skills. Each group will then present their materials to the larger group for class discussion, analysis and constructive criticism.

For select topics we may have a guest speaker (October 27th and November 3rd).

Expectations For Class

You are expected to attend every lecture. It is expected that you arrive prepared for each class. This means you have read all of the materials that have been posted to courselink for that week. This class carries with it a substantial amount of reading. The reason for this is that I believe that it is important to be well versed on the topic that we will be working on in class. This will allow you to be more engaged in the class discussions and prepare you for the case work that you will complete in groups during the class time. It also allows us to move past baseline knowledge for the topic and spend time critically analyzing the topics that are being presented that day. My hope is that during class time we spend time exploring the topic in depth and not spending time on minor details that can be looked up, memorized or committed to memory.

Course Schedule

All classes are held in MACK 311.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tentative Class Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 8th</td>
<td>Introduction and course overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15th</td>
<td>Ebola and international development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 22nd</td>
<td>Gender and infection through the ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 29th</td>
<td>Bacterial anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>Antibiotics and basic science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving (Turkey Turkey!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20th</td>
<td>HIV and stigma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27th</td>
<td>The gut, neuroscience, poop and autism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3rd</td>
<td>Hospital infection control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10th</td>
<td>Environment and microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17th</td>
<td>Sexuality and STIs then and now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24th</td>
<td>Microbiology, art and literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 28th</td>
<td>In class presentations; conclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation and assignments

There is no final exam for this course. (Woot!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short initial paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>October 17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group video presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>November 28th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>November 17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer evaluation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Due November 28th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The outlines for the two papers will be distributed separately.

Please note that assignments will not be accepted after the deadline. The only exception is if you have an illness or other legitimate reason (death in family etc).

The peer evaluation will be integral to the course. You will evaluate the peers in your group of eight based on their preparation for class and their participation during the group discussions/cases. As the Instructor I will also evaluate everyone in the class based on their contributions to the class, their preparation for class work, critical thinking, and participation during discussions.

Standard Statements from the College of Arts

E-mail Communication

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2014 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday October 31. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:
Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2014-2015/c01/index.shtml

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources
The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counselling Office: http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml