

Preliminary Course Outline

Department of History

University of Guelph

HIST*3310 – Disease and History

Fall 2015

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Course Description

This course will focus on the complex roles that disease has played in human history since the European middle ages. Emphasis will be placed on how concepts of health and disease have changed over time and how such concepts have in turn affected human society. Through an examination of both primary and secondary readings, we will look at the interplay between social and cultural responses to disease and the professional and institutional contexts of biomedicine and biomedical knowledge. Because of the circulation of knowledge and disease throughout history, whenever possible we will approach our subject from a global perspective. Topics will include disease and epidemics, social diseases, disease and colonialism, public health, the rise of scientific medicine, mental illness, disease and war, global health, and disease and women.

Course Evaluation

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| Class Participation | 15% |
| Research Paper Proposal | 5% |
| Critical Evaluation Assignments (written and oral) | 15% |
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Research Paper | 20% |
| Final Exam | 25% |

Required Texts

1. Mark Harrison (2004). *Disease and the Modern World: 1500 to the Present Day*. John Wiley and Sons.
2. A set of online readings, available through Ares, the Library's Course Reserve system, and the course website.

****Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.***