

HISTORY 446
TH 1:00-3:30
SPRING 2004

Mr. WEBB
LV 307

HISTORICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Historical Epidemiology is a research seminar which explores the changing relationship between human beings and disease over the course of world history. The seminar will examine broad topics such as the evolution of human diseases and those of domesticated animals, urbanization and disease, the integration of disease reservoirs, "childhood" epidemics, the world's medical traditions and the efficacy of their interventions, the rise of public health and the pharmaceutical industry, the epidemiological transition, and the contemporary challenges of HIV/AIDS and bio-terrorism.

Historical Epidemiology is organized somewhat differently from other courses you may have taken in the Department of History. For the first eight weeks or so, the seminar will meet to discuss assigned sets of readings. Each participant will be responsible for all of the assigned reading, and in addition, each participant will write a two-three page intellectual journal. These journals are due at 9AM on the Tuesday preceding the seminar in which these readings will be discussed; leave a paper copy of your intellectual journal in the plexiglass box outside my office, and send me an electronic copy via email. Participants are required to attend all seminar meetings and to be actively engaged with the work of the seminar.

Beyond these requirements, the principal task for participants is to write a 30-40 page research paper. During the first week which follows our initial session, participants will schedule a session with the professor to discuss the participant's research topic. On March 29th, each seminar participant will submit a full-length, first draft of her/his research paper and schedule an appointment with the professor to discuss it. On April 29th or May 6th each participants will make a one half-hour presentation of his/her research and answer questions. Participants are required to reproduce their research papers and to distribute copies to every member of the seminar by 12 noon on the Monday before their scheduled presentations.

Your final grade will reflect the quality of your intellectual journals and your research paper. The relative weighting of these components is as follows:

40 percent	intellectual journals
<u>60 percent</u>	research paper
100 percent	

Stiff penalties will be levied for failure to submit the first full draft and/or the research presentation draft on time, for incomplete attendance, or lack of preparation for the seminar meetings.

You will need to purchase the following books:

Laurie Garrett, Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health (New York, 2000).
J.N. Hays, The Burdens of Disease (New Brunswick, 1998).
William H. McNeill, Plagues and Peoples (New York, 1977).
Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History (Boston, 2001).

Contact Information

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FEB 5 : An Introduction to the Seminar: What is Historical Epidemiology?
Choosing a Research Topic
Read: J.N. Hays, The Burdens of Disease (New Brunswick, 1998), 1-7; Bruce Fetter, "History and Health Science: Medical Advances Across the Disciplines," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, vol. 23, no. 3 (2002), 423-442 [internet].

FILM: Guardians of Africa, Science Video QL 537.M7.G83 1995

FEB 12: Topic I: Early History of Human Disease
How have social and natural scientists modeled disease in early human societies? Which model or models have the greatest explanatory power? What are their limitations?
Assigned Reading: Joanna Swabe, Animals, Disease and Human Society (New York, 1999), 19-49; M. Coluzzi, "The Clay Feet of the Malaria Giant and Its African Roots: Hypotheses and Influences About Origin, Spread, and Control of *Plasmodium Falciparum*," Parassitologia, vol. 41 (1999), 277-283; Mark Nathan Cohen, Health and the Rise of Civilization (New Haven, 1989), 130-142 [Miller Reserve Folder 3206]; William McNeill, Plagues and Peoples (New York, 1977), 18-93.

FILM: The Great Plague, Video 4874

FEB 19: Five Minute Presentations of Research Topics.
Due: Two Page Research Design and Twenty-item Bibliography due at 1 PM.
Topic II: The Nature of Infectious Disease
What 'causes' an epidemic? How can we evaluate the importance of the 'social construction' as compared with the 'biological construction' of an epidemic? Does this importance vary? If so, why so? If not, why not? What importance should we assign to the interventions by the major medical systems?
Assigned Readings: J.N. Hays, The Burdens of Disease, 8-61; William McNeill, Plagues and Peoples, 94-160; Roy Porter, The Greatest Benefit to Mankind (New York, 1997), 135-162; Roger Cooter, "Of War and Epidemics: Unnatural Couplings, Problematic Conceptions," Journal of the Society for the History of Medicine, vol. 16, no. 2 (2003), 283-302.

FILM: Tuberculosis: The Forgotten Plague, Video 4875

FEB 26: Topic III: The Integration of Disease Reservoirs
Assigned Reading: J. N. Hays, The Burdens of Disease, 62-134; William McNeill, Plagues and Peoples (New York, 1977), 161-241; Darrett B. Rutman and Anita H. Rutman, "Of Agues and Fevers: Malaria in the Early Chesapeake," William and Mary Quarterly, vol. 33, no. 1 (1976), 31-60 [internet]; Sheldon Watts, Epidemics and History: Disease, Power and Imperialism (New Haven, 1997), 84-121; Kenneth Kiple, Another Dimension to the Black Diaspora (Cambridge, 1981), 58-68.

FILM: A Paralyzing Fear: The Story of Polio in America, Video 4914

MAR 4: Topic IV: Early Interventions in Public Health
What explains the rise of public health?
Assigned Reading: William McNeill, Plagues and Peoples, 242-295; Philip D. Curtin, Death By Migration (New York, 1989), 104-161; J.N. Hays, The Burdens of Disease, 135-177; Christopher Wills, Yellow Fever, Black Goddess, 105-145.

FILM: Donka: X-Ray of an African Hospital, Video 5097

MAR 11: Topic V: Tropical Medicine
How would one draw up a balance sheet of colonial medicine? Was colonial medicine substantially different from metropolitan medicine or not? If so, why so? If not, why not?
Assigned Reading: J.N. Hays, The Burdens of Disease, 177-211; Gwyn Prins, "But What Was the Disease? The Present State of Health and Healing in African Studies," Past and Present, no. 124, (August 1989), 159-179 [internet]; David Arnold, Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India (Berkeley, 1993), 159-199.

FILM: Guinea Worm, Video 5096

MAR 12: STS Seminar: Malaria and Early Tropical Africa

MAR 18: Class Rescheduled for STS Seminar on MAR 12
Research Week

MAR 25: SPRING BREAK

MAR 29: First Drafts of Research Paper Due at 9AM

APR 1 : Topic VI: International Public Health
Are the initiatives to eradicate global diseases sound investments or not?
Assigned Reading: J.N. Hays, The Burdens of Disease, 212-277; Laurie Garrett, Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health (New York, 2000), 15-267; Randall M. Packard and Peter J. Brown, "Rethinking Health, Development, and Malaria: Historicizing a Cultural Model in International Health," Medical Anthropology, vol. 17, no. 3 (1997), 181-194; Jonathan B. Tucker, Scourge: The Once and Future Threat of Smallpox (New York, 2001), 139-165.

FILM: The Silent Killer: AIDS in South Africa, Video 4269

APR 8 : Topic VII: The Challenge of HIV/AIDS
To what extent is the context of the HIV epidemic different from earlier epidemics?
Assigned Reading: Laurie Garrett, Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health (New York, 2000), 268-485; J. N. Hays, The Burdens of Disease, 278-306; Paul Farmer, Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues (Berkeley, 1999), 37-58.

FILM: Ebola: Chasing the Virus, Video 4876, vol. 4

APR 15: Topic VIII: Bioterrorism: History and Future Danger
Are new diseases reversing the 'epidemiologic transition'?

Assigned Reading: Laurie Garrett, Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health (New York, 2000), 486-550; Sheldon Watts, Epidemics and History (New Haven, 1998), 269-279.

APR 22 Seminar Rescheduled for Individual Appointments to Discuss Research Papers

APR 27 Research Papers to be presented on APRIL 29 delivered for distribution by 12 noon.

APR 29: RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

MAY 4: Research Papers to be presented on MAY 6 delivered for distribution by 12 noon.

MAY 6: RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS