**Really Bad Bugs: Historical and Emerging Infectious Diseases - UGS 302 (#62210) Fall-2017**

**Schedule:** Tuesday & Thursday, 2-3:30 p.m. MAI 220E (Life Sciences Library)

**Faculty:** Dr. Patrick J. Davis, Professor, College of Pharmacy  
See the Canvas® course site for my biography  
BME 6.02C  512-475-9751  [davispj@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:davispj@austin.utexas.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment. I’ll be available immediately after class. If you need to meet at other times, please contact me by phone or by email to set up an appointment (in person, by phone, by Skype®, or by Chat in Canvas®)

**Academic Assistant:** My Advanced Academic Assistant (Hannah Gaylord) will facilitate the teaching of this course. You can contact her at [hgaylord@gaylordinterests.com](mailto:hgaylord@gaylordinterests.com) and please include “Bad Bugs” in the subject line.

**Course Texts:**  
M. Dobson, *“Disease: The Extraordinary Stories Behind History’s Deadliest Killers.”* Metro books, 2007. Required Text. [I will provide you a copy]


**Web Resources:** The Canvas® web site for this course is located at:  
[canvas.utexas.edu](http://canvas.utexas.edu)  
On login (with your UTEID) you will see a list of Canvas websites for your current courses. Click on Fall17 Really Bad Bugs to access the site. Messages sent to you via the Canvas® Website (Email and Announcements) are official mechanisms for communication in this course.

The Canvas® website will be important for course postings, student submissions, and timely information.
**Signature Course Mission:**

The Signature Courses at the University of Texas at Austin will connect students with distinguished faculty members in unique learning environments. By way of this rigorous intellectual experience, students will develop college-level skills in research, writing, speaking, and discussion through an approach that is both interdisciplinary and contemporary. Signature courses employ a set of “essentials”, including information literacy, university gems, writing, oral communication, and the University Lecture Series. Each of these components is described in the appropriate sections below.

**Course Description & Objectives:**

This course will allow us to explore the impact of historically important infectious diseases on society from a variety of perspectives. Dobson’s book *Diseases: The Extraordinary Stories…* was chosen because it so nicely integrates these varied perspectives. The specific objectives I have for this course will be met through: (a) your thorough preparation for class; (b) active participation during our classtime together; and (c) several structured exercises outside of class to help you become familiar with resources and opportunities across campus. My specific objectives are that each of you to be able to:

A. Define the major, epidemic diseases that have shaped human history.
B. Describe how societies of the time understood and responded to those epidemics.
C. Empathize (through writing) with a member of the social structure of the time (a figure of your choosing) in dealing with the impact of the disease.
D. Describe the short and long term consequences of the disease on the society it affected. What was learned? What were the ‘negative’ and ‘positive’ consequences of the disease?
E. Apply critical thinking to ‘what if’ scenarios in relation to the disease history to develop your understanding of cause and effect.
F. Enhance your ability to communicate verbally and in writing, as well as to participate in meaningful peer review to enhance these skills in your fellow students.

**Course Requirements:**

A. The ‘heart’ of this course is our weekly discussion of one chapter of the text dealing with a particular infectious disease. To help in scheduling your efforts and understanding due dates, see the following diagram:

From the end of class Thursday to the start of class the following Tuesday, it is your responsibility to
(a) read the assigned chapter, (b) complete your reading/discussion rubric in Canvas® and (c) draft your paper from the viewpoint of someone of the time witnessing and responding to the epidemic. The paper will be 1.5-2 pages, typed, double-spaced, and in no smaller than size 12 font. Papers must be submitted in hardcopy for peer review and in electronic form for the final submission on Canvas®.
At the beginning of class Tuesday, we will take the quiz, papers will be collected, and then redistributed for peer review (note: these will be in ‘hardcopy’ form). During class Tuesday we will discuss the chapter using your ‘reading/discussion rubric’ that you completed online. Each class will also have an active learning component to help you internalize the subject matter.

You have from Tuesday to the start of class Thursday to conduct the peer review on the paper you were assigned in class. Your peer’s paper (along with your peer review) will be returned to the author at that time to help them in revisions. Class Thursday will consist of (1) analyzing each other’s peer reviews; and (2) three selected students presenting their papers orally. You have from the end of class Thursday to the start of the next class (Tuesday) to make final revision of your paper based on (a) the class discussion of the chapter, (b) the peer review conducted on your paper, and (c) feedback from the verbal presentations (if you were chosen that week to read). As your final submission, you need to submit the peer review that was done for your paper, and post your revised paper to Canvas® where it will be formally graded [all at 2:00 classtime on the day due; late paper submissions will receive a maximum score of 50%].

B. Part of the University’s intent in offering these Signature Courses is to provide an opportunity to explore “gems” offered by the campus. Thus, all students are required to attend (or view) one of the University Lecture Series presentations this Fall. The large lectures will be repeated from 6:30-7:30 and from 7:00-8:00 (Bass Concert Hall) on September 11th and 12th and can also be viewed online within 72 hours after each lecture.
   - Monday, September 11th “Turning Points”
   - Tuesday, September 12th “To Your Health”
You will find fuller descriptions at http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/uls to help you decide which to attend. We will be discussing these seminars in a Thursday class session a full week (or more) later than the presentation(s) and you should be ready for the quiz and to be called on to present what was discussed.

C. Another University’s intent in offering these Freshman Signature Courses is to provide an opportunity to become familiar with resources and gems that will be important to you throughout your studies and enrichment while at UT. Thus, throughout the semester, you will be given the opportunity to explore some of these gems and resources as options.

D. All students should feel free to visit the University Writing Center to facilitate your writing, and we may refer you to the Center if you are having difficulties in your writing. The UWC is located at PCL 2.330, 471-6222, uwc@utexas.edu

Student Responsibilities: Attendance is required in class, and each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the student’s final grade by one letter grade. An excused absence is obtained by informing me that you will be absent prior to class with an acceptable explanation for the absence. Students are expected to follow the schedule detailed above for the reading, writing, and presentation components of the course. Unexcused late submissions of papers will be accepted, but for a maximum of half-credit on the points for faculty evaluation. Students will document attendance at one of the two University Seminar Series events (above) through a quiz.

Students should not access their phone, laptops, tablets (etc.) during class unless it is used to look up information specially related to class (e.g. in-class team exercises). This is to avoid a disruptive learning environment, and to show respect for those that are engaged/participating. If you need to monitor your
phone for an important notification during class, let me know ahead of time so that I’ll know why you are looking at your phone.

**Writing Component:** To be certified as a “Writing Flag” course, there must be a significant amount of writing, peer review, and final analysis of your paper(s). With the weekly process outlined above, you will *substantially exceed* these minimum requirements. You will also have the opportunity to *revise and resubmit* any two essays you wish to have reconsidered.

**Signature Courses:** (Core Component 090) This course fulfills three hours of the component area option of the university core curriculum and addresses three of the core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, and one additional objective (teamwork, personal responsibility, social responsibility, or empirical and quantitative skills).

**Course Grading:** Your final grade will be based on accumulation of points for each of the assignments as follows:

**Weekly Grade [ten total]**
- Weekly quiz over the chapter (start of class Tuesday) 15 pts
- Quality of your peer review 10 pts
- AAA/Faculty evaluation of final paper (late 50% max) 25 pts
- In-class participation (including quality of online rubric) 10 pts

**10 Week Total** 600 pts

**Final Paper/Presentation Grade**
- Your “Coming Plague” Paper & Presentation at the end of the semester 75 pts
- Your paper (written in the same format as your previous papers) counts 25 pts and your presentation to the class counts 50 pts (25 pts from your faculty and 25 pts from your peers).

**Attendance at University Seminar Series**
- One of the University Seminars 15 pt quiz 15 pts

**Active Learning Points Awarded in Class** 20 pts
Any points earned beyond 20 pts will be retained as bonus points towards your grade.

**Total for Course** 710 pts

**Final Letter Grade**
The following scale will be used for final grade calculations:

- A Range: A = 100%-93%  A- = 92%-90%
- B Range: B+ = 89%-87%  B = 86%-83%  B- = 82%-80%
- C Range: C+ = 79%-77%  C = 76%-73%  C- = 72%-70%
- D Range: D+ = 69%-67%  D = 66%-65%
- F Range: Below 65%

This scale may be curved more leniently in the final analysis of grades at the discretion of the Professor. In addition there will be activities in class that can earn bonus points (they can only help, not hurt you).
University of Texas Honor Code: “As A Student Of The University Of Texas At Austin, I Shall Abide By The Core Values Of The University And Uphold Academic Integrity.”

Academic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/

Students are expected to work independently on assignments. Cheating on quizzes or plagiarism in writing may result in a recommendation to the Dean of Students that a grade of “F” be assigned for the course. What’s plagiarism? Simply put, it’s using words or ideas that are not your own and not citing the source of those words or ideas. It’s taking credit for something you didn’t do/write. We will be using plagiarism detection software Turnitin® to review all submissions.

Campus Carry: Students should familiarize themselves with the information provided by the University regarding the implementation of “Campus Carry” legislation. You will find an information sheet specifically for students (as well as sheets for parents, visitors, faculty, and staff) at http://campuscarry.utexas.edu/info-sheets."

Students with Disabilities: Please notify your instructor of any modification/adaptation you may require to accommodate a disability-related need. You may find out more information on the Services for Students with Disabilities website: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/ and/or http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/how-to-register-with-ssd/

Religious holy days: A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students: All students should be familiar with the University’s official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student’s responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>“Twelve Diseases” Chapter Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/31</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>START of Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/05</td>
<td>P8: “Plague” Discussion</td>
<td>Plague Paper Draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/07</td>
<td>- Plague Peer Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
<td>Plague Peer Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/12</td>
<td>P28: “Syphilus” Discussion</td>
<td>Syphilus Paper Draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/14</td>
<td>- Syphilus Peer Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/19</td>
<td>P44: “Cholera” Discussion</td>
<td>Cholera Paper Draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/21</td>
<td>- Cholera Peer Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
<td>Cholera Peer Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/26</td>
<td>P62: “Tuberculosis” Discussion</td>
<td>Tuberculosis Paper Draft</td>
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<td>09/28</td>
<td>- Tuberculosis Peer Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
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<td>10/03</td>
<td>P84: “Malaria” Discussion</td>
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<td>10/05</td>
<td>- Malaria Peer Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>P128: “Smallpox” Discussion</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
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<td>10/17</td>
<td>P140: “Measles” Discussion</td>
<td>Measles Paper Draft</td>
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<td>10/19</td>
<td>- Measles Peer Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
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<td>10/24</td>
<td>P162: “Polio” Discussion</td>
<td>Polio Paper Draft</td>
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<td>10/26</td>
<td>- Polio Peer Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
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<td>11/02</td>
<td>- Influenza Peer Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
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<td>11/07</td>
<td>P192: “AIDS” Discussion</td>
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<td>- AIDS Reviews &amp; Presentations</td>
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<td>11/16 A Coming Plague Presentations/Peer Review (3)</td>
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<td>11/21</td>
<td>11/23 Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
<td>11/15 A Coming Plague Presentations/Peer Review (3)</td>
<td>Coming Plague Submission</td>
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<td>12/5</td>
<td>12/7 Course Wrap-up and Course Evaluation</td>
<td>Coming Plague Submission</td>
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