

**Anthropology 3715
Plagues and Peoples
Winter 2025**

Professor: Dr. Deborah C. Merrett
Class time: Mon & Wed 2:30-4:00 pm
Email: dcmerret@lakeheadu.ca

Format: Thunder Bay: ATAC 3006
Orillia: ZOOM

Office Hours: by appointment – on ZOOM – email to arrange an appointment – this cannot always be done in the same day but often can!

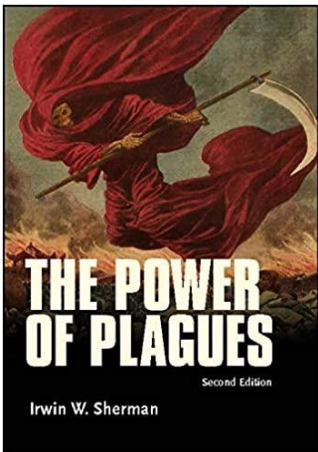
Students should NOT expect less than 24 hour turnaround time to email messages. Please do NOT assume that your message has been received unless you receive an acknowledgement.

If you do not receive a reply within 48 hours please resend your message!

Course Description:

This course explores the origins, antiquity and impact of plagues on human societies from archaeological and anthropological perspectives. This approach emphasizes the complex interrelationships among human health, culture and the environment. The course provides the biomedical and anthropological frameworks within which infectious diseases are studied including host-pathogen relationships and the dynamics of disease transmission. It examines how large-scale social transformations such as sedentism, animal and plant domestication, urbanism, and industrialization influence the types of diseases encountered, modes of disease transmission and cultural perceptions of disease.

Required Readings:



Text: Sherman, I. W. (2017). The power of plagues. John Wiley & Sons. \$53.95. 2nd Edition text or 2nd Edition ebook.

ISBN-13: 978-1683670001

Additional Mandatory Readings & Videos → (available through links on D2L) – see Weekly checklist on the course D2L site.

Evaluation:

Your final grade will be based on:

Item	Weight	Due Date
AIM Course	5%	6pm Jan 17
Quizzes (on D2L)	20% (2x10%)	Open for 24 hrs – open at 6pm on: W Jan 22, Feb 5
Midterm	20%	Open W Feb 26 – due 6pm Th Feb 27
Plague Puzzle (Major Analytical & Written Assignment)	25%	Due Mon Mar 12 at 6pm
Final Exam	30%	Final Exam Period Apr 11-24 th contingency Apr 25

Please note that **Friday, March 7, 2025** is the last date for withdrawal without academic penalty from this course. Students will have received feedback on at least 45% of the course mark by that date.

Quizzes – will be short tests approximately 20-30 min long. Question types will include various short answer formats such as multiple choice, matching, definitions, fill in the blank, true and false with justification; and short answer written questions.

Midterm test – This test will be comprised of a mix of multiple choice, matching, definitions, fill-in-the-blank, true and false with justification, and short answer written questions** and will be based on the course material covered up to this date.

Final exam – will be similar in format to the Midterm. This exam is cumulative (covers material for the entire term).

Assignments: specific details will be provided in class and D2L on appropriate dates.

- **NOTE – Referencing and in-text citations** will follow APA format **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Guidelines can be found at <https://libguides.lakeheadu.ca/cite> (note links in box on left side)
- This style is to be adhered to for all written assignments and grades will be reduced if other styles are used.

**** All written assignments are also to be done in 12 point font and 1.5 spaced.**

Accommodations: Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit: <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

Missed tests will not be made-up unless official documentation of a reasonable excuse is submitted (e.g. student or family illness, death of family member, car accident). The same policy applies to **missed due dates for assignments**. Please note that going off on holidays for the STUDY WEEK or leaving early at the end of term OR similar do not constitute a reasonable excuses. Please contact me within **48 hrs.** of any missed due date or test. Late assignments without reasonable excuses will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day up to one week then completely not acceptable. **But ALWAYS contact me ASAP regardless to see if circumstances warrant leniency.**

Assignments are due at 4pm on the given due dates after that they are considered late. Early submissions are welcome. All completed assignments are to be as a .doc file in D2L (go under the Assignment Tab/Widget). Any formats other than .doc files will not be accepted including .pdf. Assignments must be submitted to the appropriate online drop box – DO NOT email them to me.

Students are directed to LU's policy: code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures that can be found at <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>. **All students should familiarize themselves with this policy** which covers such misconduct as plagiarism, cheating, and disruption of teaching. There will be no tolerance for such behaviours.

Use of AI

Generative artificial intelligence (Generative AI or GenAI) is a category of AI systems capable of generating text, images, or other media in response to prompts. These systems include ChatGPT and its variant Bing (built by OpenAI) and Bard (built by Google) among several others. Other Generative AI models include artificial intelligence art systems such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, and DALL-E. Any use of GenAI systems to produce assignments for this course is not permitted. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity ("Use of Unauthorized Materials").

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Topic(s)	Readings/Assignments
WEEK 1		See Weekly Checklists for <u>Readings</u>
M Jan 6	Course Information and Introduction	Chapter 1
W Jan 8	Biocultural Model of Health	
WEEK 2		
M Jan 13	Disease Transmission	Chapter 2
W Jan 15	Road to Plagues: View from the Archaeological Record	
F Jan 17	Latest date to register for course	
WEEK 3		
M Jan 20	Increasing Cultural Complexity	Chapter 10
W Jan 22	Preventing plagues: Immunity and the immune system	Chapter 10; Quiz 1

WEEK 4		
M Jan 27	Concepts of Disease	Chapter 11; Plague Puzzle Assigned
W Feb 29	Medical Developments	Chapter 11
WEEK 5		
M Feb 3	Pathogen Exposure	Chapter 3
W Feb 5	Plagues of the Past	Chapter 3; Quiz 2

WEEK 6		
M Feb 10	Cholera: Pandemics	Chapter 8
W Feb 12	Cholera: Cultural Influences	Chapter 8
WEEK 7		
Feb 17-21	STUDY BREAK – NO CLASSES	
WEEK 8		
M Feb 28	The Black Death	Chapter 4
W Feb 26	Demography and aDNA	Midterm
WEEK 9		
M Mar 3	Tuberculosis	Chapter 13
W Mar 5	Leprosy	Chapter 14

WEEK 10		
M Mar 10	Smallpox	Chapter 9
W Mar 12	Smallpox: A Local View	Plague Puzzle due
WEEK 11		
M Mar 17	Typhus, Yellow Fever	Chapter 6, 15
W Mar 19	Chagas disease, Brucellosis	
WEEK 12		
M Mar 24	Influenza	Chapter 9
W Mar 25	Influenza: Archival Studies	

WEEK 13		
M Mar 31	Emerging Pathogens	Chapter 16
W Apr 2	TBA/Review	
Apr 7 - 17	Final Exam Period	
Apr 19	Contingency Date	