

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
GEOG 4911 – Medical Geography– 2014-15 Winter Term
COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor

Dr. W. Wilson, Department of Geography, BB 1068

Tel: (807) 343-8274

EMAIL POLICY: My official LU email is wrwilson@aspencroft.ca. Please keep in mind that there are many of you in this course and in my other courses, so we will need to be efficient with email communication! If I have more than a few emails about the same topic I will probably respond with a blanket posting. In my experience, many questions are answered very well by other individuals in the course and in class.

Introduction

Welcome to GEOG 4911 – Medical Geography. This class will provide you with an exploration of the many and varied geographies of medicine. In particular, we will be studying the impacts of globalization on the human experience of illness, including epidemiology, “emerging diseases,” the role of poverty and landscape, etc. If possible, I would like to run this course as a seminar, where we will each be bringing pertinent readings to each class meeting. If you have never done this type of course before, you may find the tempo challenging.. Please plan accordingly. This course is meant to prepare you to go out in the world with a solid knowledge of the physical, biological, and cultural geographies of North America.

Aim

By the end of this course, successful students should understand:

- 1) The varied vocabulary and concepts of medical geography
- 2) The dynamic of the physical environment on medicine and illness and how it can impact how people live in different areas
- 3) The impact of globalization on illness and its treatment
- 4) The use of a variety of technologies to study how people live.

Successful students will also gain technical skills in:

- 1) Writing;
- 2) Research;
- 3) Cartography;
- 4) Various software packages.

Successful students will emerge from this class with a set of skills and a mind-set to allow you to conduct your expeditions, employment, and travels in an medically appropriate and culturally sensitive fashion.

Readings and materials

The required textbooks and readings are:

Required

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1. Your choice of any atlas or series of maps that cover the world. See what is available in your local area or via the internet. Atlases can be heavy to ship, so any used atlas from your own area is fine. It should include political boundaries, physical features, and transportation networks at a minimum so you can see where things are located as we cover them.
2. Meade, Melinda and Michael Emch (2010) *Medical Geography 3rd Edition*. New York: Guilford Press.
3. Articles you will be able to acquire through the library.
4. Either the *Chicago Manual of Style* or *APA Publishing Manual* and a copy of the Department of Geography *Thesis Manual*.

Recommended

5. It is expected that at various times during the term you will find readings on your own which will contain information that you can contribute to class discussions and assignments. You may want to become particularly familiar with the academic geographical journals available electronically through the Lakehead Library.