MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 242/705.55
Fall 2008

Instructor: Barbara Tempalski, PhD MPH
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Lecture room: HN 1022
Lecture schedule: Monday and Wednesday 5:35 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

The microbe is nothing; the terrain everything.
L. Pasteur, on his death-bed

The terrain may not be "everything", but it is a critical determinant of human health worldwide. The socio-political, economic and natural environments in which we live -- including government, imperialism, housing, transportation, climate, vegetation, and environmental pollution -- have profound effects on health.

This course introduces the subject of health geography and analyzing the geographic distribution and spread of ill-health and disease. We will analyze in detail the many types of diseases that affect human health and ill-health in developed and developing countries. We will examine the geographic patterns of health and disease on a local, national and international scale. Investigating the effects of environmental and land use change on human health and emerging infectious diseases; the spatial diffusion of disease; the relationships between economic, social, and political change and health; and issues regarding stigma and human agency on the geographic distribution of health services. From tropical diseases to HIV/AIDS to re-emerging viruses, we will learn about where diseases occur, when and why.

TEXT:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Class Participation/Lead Discussion (UG--20%, G--20%)
2. Term Paper (UG--30%, G--40%)
3. Term Paper presentation (UG--15%, G--20%)
4. Reading Responses with 3 short papers (UG--20%, G--20%)
5. Group Project (UG--15%)

UG = weight for undergraduates, G = weight for graduate students.

There will be NO mid-term or final exam. Term papers are due last day of scheduled class.
There will be NO INCOMPLETES (with the exception of a death, serious illness, or work
related issues such as travel. A notification is required for all exceptions).

Since much of the class will consist of class participation and lead discussion based on reading responses, class attendance is mandatory. It is assumed that all students will have done all of the readings prior to each class, with the exception of the first class session.

Lectures will be held on Mondays and Reading Response discussion will be held on Wednesdays (see class schedule below). Reading Responses will begin with a short lecture and a list of questions outlined by Dr. Tempalski. Student/students are responsible for a 20-25 minute lead discussion on the reading topic. The section ends with a discussion regarding questions outlined in the beginning of the section. The purposes of the Reading Responses are for students to develop better written, communication and public speaking skills.

Term papers should be approximately 15 pages for UG and 25 pages for G, unless you intend to submit it to a publication, in which case it should conform to the style and length of articles in that publication. Standard medical/public health citation format should be used.

**Statement on academic integrity:**
"Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures."

**Health Geography: An Introduction**
* Meade text, pp. 1-20, 401-409

**Historical Perspectives of Disease and Response**
* Hay text, Ch. 1, 2, 3 & 5

**Place, Space and Disease Diffusion**
* Meade text, Ch. 8
* Hay text, Ch. 7

**Ecological Perspectives, Landscape Epidemiology and Developmental Change in Human Health and Disease**
Developing Counties and Tropical Diseases
*Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD):
http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/en/
*Disease Types: http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/en/

Political Ecology of Disease
*Hay text, Ch. 8 & 9

Disease, Power and Imperialism
*Hay text, Ch. 10, 11 & 12

Human Agency and Response to Disease
*Harm Reduction Coalition: Response to Drug use and HIV/AIDS:
http://www.harmreduction.org/


**Geographies of HIV/AIDS, Services and Stigma**


**Spatial Organization of Health Services**

*Meade text, Ch. 10


**Geographic Information Systems and Public Health**

* Meade text, Ch. 13


Important Dates:
Sept 1  No classes scheduled
Sept 3  Reading Response (Health Geography: An Introduction)
Sept 10 Reading Response (Historical Perspectives of Disease and Response)
Sept 17 Reading Response (Place, Space and Disease Diffusion)
Sept 24 Reading Response (Ecology: Disease and Health)/ (Developing Counties and
Tropical Diseases)
Sept 29 No classes scheduled
Oct 1  No classes scheduled
Oct 8  No classes scheduled
Oct 14 Monday class schedule
Oct 15 Reading Response (Developing Countries and Tropical Diseases)
Oct 20 Reading Response (Political Ecology of Disease)
Oct 29 Reading Response (Disease, Power and Imperialism)
Nov 4  Reading Response (Human Agency and Response)
Nov 12 Reading Response (Geographies of HIV/AIDS)
Nov 19 Reading Response (Geographies of HIV/AIDS)/(Spatial Organization of Health
Services)
Nov 24 Reading Response (Geographic Information Systems and Public Health)
Dec 1/3 Final paper presentations
Dec 8/10 Final paper presentations
Dec 15 Term paper due

*REQUIRED READINGS