History of Global Health

(History 89FCS.01)

I. Instructor Margaret Humphreys, M.D., Ph.D.

206 Carr Building

684-2285

[meh@duke.edu](mailto:meh@duke.edu)

Office hours by appointment

II. Texts

Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1997)

David Herlihy, *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997).

James Jones, *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment* (New York: The Free Press, 1981).

Donald R. Hopkins, *The Greatest Killer: Smallpox in History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983; 2002).

Texts are available for purchase at the Regulator bookshop on 9th St. (Go to the lower level and ask for the books for this class). They will also be on reserve at Lilly. Used copies may be available on Amazon or via other sources.

III. Other readings are available on the course Blackboard site.

IV. Assignments and grading

Completing the reading assignments and participation in class discussion are expected, and class participation will be graded. Absences from class should be explained to the professor.

Two short papers are due in this course. More detail will be supplied later, but the dates are: 2/12, 3/19, and 4/21.

There is no midterm. The final exam will be a take home due the day the registrar assigns us for the final exam to be given.

Distribution of grading: class participation 10%; each paper 30%; final exam 30%

History 89FCS: History of Global Health

1/8 Introduction

Discussion of course themes and student experiences

1/13 Prehistory of Human Health and Disease

Readings: Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel* (New York: Norton, 1999), prologue, chs. 1-3.

1/15 Prehistory of Food

Readings: Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, chs. 4-10.

1/20 Of Cannibals and Kings: Food and Culture

Readings: Marvin Harris, *Cannibals and Kings: The Origins of Cultures* (New York: Random House, 1977), pp. 127-229.

1/22 From Food to Guns and Germs

Readings: Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, chs. 11-14.

1/27 Plague: The Second Pandemic

Readings: Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*, ed. Mark Musa and Peter Bondanella (New York: Norton, 1977), pp. 1-17; David Herlihy, *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997), pp. 17-81.

1/29 Plague: The Third Pandemic

Readings: Myron Echenberg, “Pestis Redux: The Initial Years of the Third Bubonic Plague Pandemic, 1894-1901,” *Journal of World History*, 2002, *13*, 429-449; Guenter Risse, “”A Long Pull, a Strong Pull, and All Together:” San Francisco and Bubonic Plague, 1907-1908,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine,* 1992, *66*, 260-86; Alan Kraut, *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes and the “Immigrant Menace”* (1st pub. 1994; Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1995), pp. 78-96; I. J. Catanach, “The Globalization of Disease? India and the Plague,” *Journal of World History*, 2001, *12*, 131-153.

2/3 Smallpox, part I

Reading: Donald Hopkins, *The Greatest Killer* (Chicago, 2002), pp. 1-163.

2/5 Smallpox, part II

Reading: Hopkins, *The Greatest Killer*, pp. 164-310.

2/10 Cholera, pt. 1

Readings: Richard Evans, “Epidemics and Revolutions: Cholera in Nineteenth-Century Europe,” *Past and Present*, 1988, *120*, 123-146;

Christopher Wills, *Yellow Fever, Black Goddess: The Coevolution of People and Plagues* (Reading, MA: Addison Wesley, 1996), pp. 105-130; Marcus Cueto, “Stigma and Blame during an Epidemic: Cholera in Peru, 1991,” in Diego Armus, ed., *Disease in the History of Modern Latin America: From Malaria to AIDS* (Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 2003), pp. 268-289.

2/12 Cholera, pt. 2

Readings/assignment: Go to:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/cholera/books.html>.

Choose a book/pamphlet to read (looking at the list by country may be the most interesting way). Write a 5 page paper that describes the main ideas in the book. What does the author think causes cholera? What prevents its spread? What should be done? Come to class prepared to describe your author’s views and defend his beliefs about the disease. Be sure to consider his sources of evidence and how he uses them to establish his ideas. Be sensitive to language suggesting stigma, or condemnation of certain groups.

2/17 Tuberculosis: The Quiet Traveler

Readings: William Stead, “The Origin and Erratic Global Spread of Tuberculosis,” *Clinics in Chest Medicine*, 1997, *18*, 65-77; Alicia K. Wilbur and Jane Buikstra, “Patterns of Tuberculosis in the Americas: How Can Modern Biomedicine Inform the Ancient Past?” *Memórias de Instituto Oswaldo Cruz*, 2006, *101*, suppl. 2; C.W. McMillen, “The Red Man and the White Plague:’ Rethinking Race, Tuberculosis and American Indians, ca. 1890-1950,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 2008, *82*, 608-45.

2/19 Typhoid Fever

Readings: Joseph Ferrie and Werner Troesken, “Water and Chicago’s Mortality Transition, 1850–1925,” *Explorations in Economic History*, 2008, *45*, 1-16; Judith W. Leavitt, “’Typhoid Mary Strikes Back,’” *ISIS*, 1992, *83*, 608-629; J. Andrew Mendelsohn, “’Typhoid Mary Strikes Again,’” *ISIS*, 1995, *86*, 268-277.

2/24 Emerging Diseases: Ebola (the movie!)

Readings: None.

2/26 Famine and its History

Readings: Dorothy H. Crawford, *Deadly Companions: How Microbes Shaped Our History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), pp. 139-160; David Arnold, *Famine: Social Crisis and Historical Change* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1988), pp. 1-46; J. P. W. Rivers, “The Nutritional Biology of Famine,” in G. Ainsworth Harrison, ed., *Famine* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988), pp. 57-106.

3/3 Vitamins and Global Health: Beriberi

Readings: Anne Hardy, “Beriberi, Vitamin B1 and World Food Policy, 1925-1970,” *Medical History*, 1995, *39*, 61-77; Ken de Bevoise, *Agents of Apocalypse* (Princeton, 1995), 118-141.

3/5 Vitamins and Global Health: Scurvy

Readings: Margaret Humphreys, *Intensely Human: The Health of Black Soldiers in the American Civil War* (Baltimore, 2008), pp. 119-141; Kenneth Carpenter, *The History of Scurvy and Vitamin C* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986), 133-157, 173-197; Mathieu Torck, “Maritime Travel and the Question of Provisions and Scurvy in a Chinese Context,” *East Asian Science, Technology and Medicine*, 2005, *23*, 54-78.

3/10-12 Spring Break

3/17 A Plague of Food: Obesity and Diabetes Mellitus

Readings: Peter N. Stearns, *Fat History: Bodies and Beauty in the Modern West* (New York: New York University Press, 1997), pp. 127-149; Peter Bennett, et al., “Diabetes Mellitus in American (Pima) Indians,” *Lancet*, 17 July 1971, 125-128; Margaret Humphreys, et al., “Racial Disparities in Diabetes a Century Ago: Evidence from the Pension Files of U.S. Civil War Veterans,” *Social Science and Medicine*, 2007, *64,* 1766-1775.

3/19 The Great Influenza Outbreak of 1918

Readings: Alfred W. Crosby, Jr., “The Influenza Pandemic of 1918,” in June Osborn, ed., *Influenza in America* (New York: Prodist, 1977), pp. 5-13. Choose a chapter from Howard Phillips and David Killingray, *The Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918-19* (London, Routledge, 2001; write a 3-5 page summary of the article and come to class prepared to describe and discuss.

3/24 American South: The African Exchange

Readings: Philip Curtin, “Epidemiology and the Slave Trade,” *Political Science Quarterly*, 1968, *83*, 190-216; Todd Savitt, “Filariasis (Elephantiasis) in the United States,” *Journal of the History of Medicine*, 1977, *32*, 140-50; Marc Monot, et al., “On the Origin of Leprosy,” *Science*, 2005, *308*, 1040-1042.

3/26 Yellow Fever

Readings: Juliet E. Bryant, Edward C. Holmes, Alan D. T. Barrett, “Out of Africa: A Molecular Perspective on the Introduction of Yellow Fever Virus into the Americas,” *PLoS Pathog*, 2007 May 18;3(5):e75; Martin S. Pernick, “Politics, Parties and Pestilence: Epidemic Yellow Fever in Philadelphia and the Rise of the First Party System,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1972, *29*, 559-586; J. D. Goodyear, “The Sugar Connection: A New Perspective on the History of Yellow Fever,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 1978, 5*2*, 5-21.

3/31 American South: The Setting

Reading: Charles Johnson, *Shadow on the Plantation*. ch. 1 (1-46), 80-128, ch. 7 (186-207).

4/2 American South: Yellow Fever and Malaria

Readings: Jo Ann Carrigan, “Yellow Fever: The Scourge of the South,” in Todd Savitt and James Harvey Young, *Disease and Distinctiveness in the American South* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1988), pp. 55-78; John Duffy, “The Impact of Malaria on the South,” in ibid, pp. 29-54; Margaret Humphreys, *Malaria*, (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001), pp. 113-139.

4/7 American South: Pellagra

Readings: Elizabeth W. Etheridge, “Pellagra: An Unappreciated Reminder of Southern Distinctiveness,” in Savitt and Young, *Disease and Distinctiveness,* pp. 100-119; Joseph Goldberger, “The Etiology of Pellagra,” “Cause and Prevention of Pellagra,” and “Treatment,” in *Public Health Reports* 29 (1914): 1683-1686, 2354-2357, 2821-2825; C. H. Lavinder, “The Prevalence and Geographic Distribution of Pellagra in the US,” *Public Health Reports*, 1912, *27*, 2076-2088.

4/9 American South: Syphilis

Readings: James Jones, *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment* (New York: The Free Press, 1981; 1993), ch. 1-8.

4/14 American South: Persistence of Inequalities

Readings: Jones, *Bad Blood*, ch. 8-epilogue; J.C. Thomas and K. K. Thomas, “Things ain't what they ought to be: social forces underlying racial disparities in rates of sexually transmitted diseases in a rural North Carolina county,” *Social Science and Medicine*, 1999, *49*, 1075-84.

4/16 What does it all mean?

Reading: Robert Fogel, *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. xv-xvii, 1-42.

4/21 Conclusion

Reading: Fogel, pp. 43-65.