

Plagues, People, and Power

Syllabus

Course Information

Organization Milwaukee Area Technical College

Course Number 806-260

Credits 3

Contact Hours 48

Description

Students will examine how historical infectious disease outbreaks have influenced, and in turn been influenced by, human society. Students will also analyze how infectious diseases have the potential to affect our present and future. This will be achieved using lectures supplemented with a review of both fiction and non-fiction reading assignments and movies. Some of the topics to be covered include: the Black Death, leprosy, smallpox, syphilis, tuberculosis, influenza, HIV/AIDS and biological weapons.

Prerequisites

None

Textbooks

Irwin W. Sherman. The Power of Plagues. Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN: 0-534-23436-4.

Learner Supplies

Book of student's own choosing. Quantity: 1.

Core Abilities

- o Communicate effectively.
- o Demonstrate responsibility.
- o Think critically and creatively.
- o Utilize technology.
- o Apply math and science.
- o Demonstrate environmental responsibility.

Competencies

1. Contrast the properties of infectious disease agents.
2. Describe the various modes of disease transmission.
3. Identify commonly used laboratory methods for the identification of infectious agents.
4. Describe the role of host immune responses to infection.
5. Identify prehistoric and historic events in human development which contributed to the rise of plagues.
6. Describe select historically significant infectious disease outbreaks.
7. Describe the agent, mode of transmission, signs and symptoms, and incidence of select historical, emerging, and re-emerging infectious diseases.
8. Analyze the societal impact of select historical, emerging, and re-emerging infectious diseases.
9. Analyze works of art, movies and literature influenced or inspired by select historical, emerging, and re-emerging infectious diseases.
10. Evaluate the impact of human activities on historically significant infectious diseases and emerging, and re-emerging infectious diseases.

11. Describe infectious disease agents which have been used as bioweapons in the past and have the potential to be used as bioweapons in the future.
12. Analyze the implications of the use of bioweapons.
13. Describe local public health department activities.