
Biology Department, College of Science & Mathematics, Valdosta State University
SPRING 2020---COURSE SYLLABUS*

PERS 2480, Section A --- Infectious Diseases and History (CRN 24717) - 2 credit hours

Class: Mon. 12:00-1:50 pm, 2022 Bailey Science Center

Instructor: Dr. Jenifer Turco **Email:** jturco@valdosta.edu
Telephone: 229-249-4845 **Office:** 2091 Bailey Science Center
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs., 4:15-5:05 pm; or by appointment.

Course Description: PERS 2480 Infectious Diseases and History (2 credit hours). Survey of the role of infectious diseases in shaping world and regional history. Diseases and other topics to be covered each semester will vary. Examples include plague, Hansen's disease (leprosy), smallpox, cholera, tuberculosis, typhus, yellow fever, influenza, AIDS, and biological warfare.

"As part of the core curriculum at VSU, Perspectives courses foster interdisciplinary learning and global awareness. Perspectives courses explore topics that cross disciplinary boundaries with an emphasis on the interaction of two or more disciplines and the development of an ability by the student to synthesize varying points of view. Perspectives courses attempt to connect issues that affect individuals within our region (a regional perspective) with those affecting individuals in other parts of the world (a global perspective)."

From "Guidelines To Develop Perspectives Courses"

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/general-education-council/perspectives-development.php>

Required Textbook: **THE ATLAS OF DISEASE**
By Sandra Hempel
White Lion Publishing/Quarto Publishing plc, 2018. (ISBN 978-1-78131-790-7)

Additional Resource (This book is on reserve at the Odum Library)
VIRUSES, PLAGUES, & HISTORY
By Michael B.A. Oldstone
Oxford University Press, 1998. (ISBN 0-19-511723-9)

Other Required Items: (i) Two thin, light-weight folders for handing in assignments and (ii) one compact disk or jump drive for preparing and presenting your PowerPoint presentation.

Special Notes to Students:

1. In order to respect the privacy of each student, exam scores and grades will not be posted, given out by telephone, or sent to students by email.
 2. Students should consult the VSU Student Handbook, Catalog, Semester Calendar, Schedule of Classes, & Registration Guide (all available online) for information about VSU policies and procedures regarding registration, drop/add, and withdrawal. March 5 is the official midterm, and the withdrawal deadline is March 12. Students are not permitted to withdraw after this deadline except in cases of hardship.
 3. Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V) and 229-375-5871 (VP). For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email:access@valdosta.edu.
 4. Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Maggie Viverette, Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.
- (continued on next page.....)**

***This is a tentative syllabus. Changes to this syllabus will be announced during class periods; alternatively, changes may be posted on BlazeView.**

Special Notes to Students (continued from preceding page):

5. Cell phones, music players, and other electronic devices may not be used at any time in class. Students are cautioned to be certain that cell phones and specialty watches are silenced and put away during examinations. In addition, calculators may not be used during examinations. Should a cell phone, specialty watch, calculator, or other electronic device be seen or heard during an exam, the student’s exam will be terminated and the student will receive a score of “0” on the exam.
6. Please use the rest room before you come to class to take an exam. Should a student need to leave the classroom during an exam, the student’s exam will be terminated. No hats may be worn during examinations.
7. Students are expected to read and adhere to the following: (i) the VSU Student Code of Conduct as described in the VSU Student Handbook and (ii) the Biology Department policy on plagiarism (available online through the departmental Web site). The instructor may use a variety of methods for detecting cheating and plagiarism. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of “0” for the exam or assignment. In addition, the instructor may complete a Report of Academic Dishonesty and submit it to the VSU Student Conduct Office. A student who cheats or plagiarizes on more than one exam or assignment will receive a grade of “F” in the course.
8. Food is not permitted in the classroom. Students who wish to use laptop computers or tablets as part of the class must take extra care not to distract others.
9. No disruptive behavior will be tolerated during class. A student who engages in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave. If necessary, the campus police will be contacted.
10. At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the [SOI Procedures webpage](#).

Course Objectives:

1. To help students acquire knowledge and understanding of various infectious diseases and their importance in history. Both global and regional perspectives will be incorporated where possible.
2. To provide opportunities for students to develop their skills in using library and computer resources to further their learning.
3. To provide opportunities for students to develop their skills in oral and written communication.

Alignment of Course Objectives with Learning Goals/Educational Outcomes:

The **Student Learning Goals for the Core Curriculum in the University System of Georgia (USG)** are available online at http://www.usg.edu/academic_affairs_handbook/section2/C738/. The application of these learning goals in VSU’s Core Curriculum is explained at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/vsu-core-curriculum.php>. Each Core Area (A1, A2, B, C, D, and E) has one or more learning goals. Perspectives courses are part of the Core Area B requirement at VSU, and the VSU learning goal for Core Area B is stated below:

AREA B:

Students will demonstrate knowledge of global and regional perspectives in areas such as the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

All three course objectives (see above) are aligned with the VSU Area B learning goal.

Alignment of Assignments with Course Objectives:

The course objective(s) aligned with each assignment are given on the last page of this syllabus.

PERS 2480 Infectious Diseases and History - Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Related material in text
Mon. Jan. 13	Course introduction; types of infectious agents Introduction to infectious diseases and the immune system	p. 42-51
Mon. Jan. 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Class will not meet on this day.)	

PERS 2480 Infectious Diseases and History - Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Related material in text
<u>Mon. Jan. 27</u>	Introduction to infectious diseases and the immune system Brief history of microbiology Cholera <u>Lottery to determine order for student topic selections</u>	p. 6-9; 92-101
<u>Mon. Feb. 3</u>	Dysentery and typhoid fever Typhus <u>Student topic selections according to order determined on Jan. 27</u> <u>Finding information for oral/written reports</u> <u>Questions about oral/written reports</u>	p. 102-107; 108-117 p. 142-149
Mon. Feb. 10	Typhus (continued) EXAM 1 (material covered through Feb. 10)	
Mon. Feb. 17	Plague Malaria	p. 132-141 p. 120-131
<u>Mon. Feb. 24</u>	<u>questions about oral/written reports</u> Malaria (continued) Leprosy (Hansen's disease)	p. 32-41
Mon. Mar. 2	Tuberculosis Syphilis	p. 80-89 p. 206-215
<u>Mon. Mar. 9</u>	Biological weapons, biological warfare, and bioterrorism <u>Brief Discussion of schedule for oral/written reports</u>	
Mon. Mar. 16	Spring Break	
<u>Mon. Mar. 23</u>	Biological weapons, biological warfare, and bioterrorism <u>Discussion of final schedule for oral/written reports</u> EXAM 2 (material covered through March 23)	

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS BEGIN THIS WEEK

Mon. Mar. 30	Theme: Chemical agents for treating bacterial diseases Instructor: General comments Student reports: (1) Paul Ehrlich and salvarsan (2) Alexander Fleming and the discovery of penicillin (3) Selman A. Waksman, Albert Schatz, and streptomycin Instructor: Resistance to antimicrobial medicines Break Theme: Famous people and institutions related to infectious diseases/history Student reports: (4) Florence Nightingale (5) Howard T. Ricketts (6) Edward Livingston Trudeau (7) A brief history of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	
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PERS 2480 Infectious Diseases and History - Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Related material in text
Mon. Apr. 6	<p>Yellow fever Instructor: Introduction to yellow fever Student reports: (8) Carlos Finlay (9) U.S. Army Yellow Fever Commission (10) Yellow fever and the Louisiana Purchase (11) Yellow fever and the Panama Canal</p> <p>Break</p> <p>Smallpox Instructor: Introduction to smallpox Student reports: (12) History of variolation (Asia, Europe, and the U.S.) (13) Edward Jenner: Vaccination with cowpox for prevention of smallpox (14) Donald A. Henderson and how smallpox was eradicated</p>	<p>p. 150-159</p> <p>p. 70-79</p>
Mon. Apr. 13	<p>Poliomyelitis Instructor: Introduction to poliomyelitis Student reports: (15) Franklin D. Roosevelt and Warm Springs (16) History of the “March of Dimes” (17) Jonas Salk</p> <p>Break</p> <p>Ebola and Marburg diseases Instructor: Introduction to Ebola and Marburg diseases Student reports: (18) Early outbreaks of Ebola and Marburg diseases (before the 1990s) (19) Events at Reston, Virginia (20) More recent outbreaks of Ebola disease (especially 2014) (21) Research advances on Ebola treatment and prevention View portion of program on Ebola (if possible)</p>	<p>p. 172-181</p> <p>p, 182-193</p>
Mon. Apr. 20	<p>Influenza Instructor: Introduction to influenza Student reports: (22) The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 (Part 1) (must cooperate with other student) (23) The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 (Part 2) (must cooperate with other student) Instructor: How information about the virus that caused the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 was obtained</p> <p>Break</p> <p>HIV/AIDS, Part 1 Instructor: Introduction to HIV/AIDS; origin of HIV Student reports: (24) HIV/AIDS in Georgia and the United States (25) HIV/AIDS throughout the world (26) Luc Montagnier</p>	<p>p. 22-31</p> <p>p. 194-205</p>

PERS 2480 Infectious Diseases and History - Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Related material in text
Mon. Apr. 27	HIV/AIDS, Part 2 Student reports: (27) Ryan White (28) Randy Shilts (29) Kimberly Bergalis Break Spongiform encephalopathies and the nature of the infectious agents Instructor: Introduction to spongiform encephalopathies and prions Student reports: (30) Scrapie (31) Bovine spongiform encephalopathy and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (32) D. Carlton Gajdusek and kuru (33) Stanley Prusiner	
Mon. May 4	Review	
Wed. May 6	COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM (EXAM 3) – 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course Content: We will not be covering all of the material in the textbook. In addition, some supplemental material will be covered that is not included in the textbook. Please read the pertinent sections of the textbook and make use of the illustrations. **Specific assigned readings on particular topics may be announced in class, or they may be posted on BlazeView.** Material from the textbook and other assigned readings may be included on the examinations.

Examinations-----Three examinations will be given, and each exam will be worth 200 points. The highest possible number of points on the examinations in the course is 600. Examinations will begin promptly on the times and dates indicated on the class schedule. **THE SECOND EXAMINATION AND THE FINAL EXAMINATION WILL BE FULLY COMPREHENSIVE.** Exams may include questions of the multiple-choice, matching, true-false, or short-answer format. The instructor should be notified as soon as possible if a student misses an examination. Arrangements for a make-up exam must be made within one week after a student misses an exam; otherwise, a make-up exam will not be given. A make-up exam will consist entirely of questions of the short answer and essay formats. **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING TWO #2 PENCILS AND ERASERS TO ALL EXAMINATIONS. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT PROVIDE PENCILS.**

Attendance-----In accordance with VSU policy, attendance will be checked in class. Because each class period is 1 hour and 50 minutes, a short break will generally be taken after the first 50 minutes. Attendance will be checked at or near the beginning of each class (~noon) and again after the break (~1 pm). An absence during either hour will be counted as one absence. Missing both hours will be counted as two absences. Students who have missed more than 20% of the regularly scheduled class times are subject to a failing grade for the course.

Students are required to attend the following: (i) all class times (this means both hours on each indicated day) during which student topics are selected/assigned and student presentations are discussed (Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 24, March 9, and March 23) and (ii) all class times during which student presentations are scheduled (see class schedule). Twenty points will be subtracted for the fifth and any subsequent absence from any of these required class times/meetings. The student is responsible for all information covered and assignments made when he or she is absent.

Class Participation-----Students are encouraged to participate in class by asking questions and contributing comments based on their reading and background.

Oral and written reports-----Each student will be required to give an oral presentation (approximately 8 to 9 minutes) to the class on a selected or assigned topic from the list of possible topics (see syllabus). A lottery will be used to determine the order in which students will select their topics. A student who is absent when topics are selected will be assigned a topic by the instructor. Students are strongly encouraged to use PowerPoint software during their presentations. Students may also write on the board and use a poster or handout to enhance their presentations. Immediately after the presentation is given, each student must submit the following items to the instructor: a complete, readable printout of any PowerPoint slides that are used, a copy of any handout or poster used during the presentation, plus a one-page (one side only), typed, double-spaced summary of his/her report plus a list of references (with complete information) used in preparing the report. The oral/written reports will be worth a total of 400 points (200 points for the oral presentation plus 200 points for the written summary and references). (The PowerPoint printout, poster, or any handouts used will be considered as part of the presentation grade.)

Please be prepared on time for your oral and written reports. Please note that there will be no make-ups for the oral and written reports, except in the event of a documented, serious emergency. The corresponding written report and references must be submitted immediately after the oral presentation, except in the event of a documented, serious emergency.

GRADING:

EXAM 1	200 POINTS
EXAM 2	200 POINTS
FINAL EXAM	200 POINTS
ORAL PRESENTATION (including PowerPoint, poster, handout, etc.) (course objectives 2 & 3)	200 POINTS
WRITTEN REPORT & REFERENCES (course objectives 2 & 3)	200 POINTS
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TOTAL	1000 POINTS

There are THREE REQUIREMENTS TO PASS the course:

1. Obtain 120 of the 200 points for the oral presentation.
2. Obtain 120 of the 200 points for the written report and references.
3. Accumulate a total of 600 or more points for the course.

Students should read the entire syllabus carefully so they understand the course policies & procedures.

The grade is "F" for a student who obtains less than 600 total points or fails to meet one of the other requirements for passing the course (see above list).

GRADING SCALE: 900-1000, A; 800-899, B; 700-799, C; 600-699, D; < 600, F
