

Readings in Emerging Infectious Disease: BIOL 830P Course Outline –Fall 2017

Course Description

This course is a specialty course for students who want to have a more thorough understanding of infectious microorganisms in the modern day. Students will be expected to read research papers each week and discuss current issues in medical microbiology. Students will also have to write one term paper for the course. It is strongly suggested that students have taken an introductory microbiology course before taking this class.

Student Outcome Objectives

1. Students will develop a deeper knowledge of emerging infectious diseases. This will include why they are emerging, what threat they pose, and how we can control them.
2. Students will understand how humans are contributing to emerging infectious diseases and how we are responding to these diseases.
3. Students will improve their understanding of new technologies being used to discover, track, treat, and prevent emerging infectious diseases.
4. Students will be able to identify the most current threats to the human population and the steps that are being taken to protect against these microorganisms.

Instructor

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Faculty Communication

The best way to reach me is by email. I check my email several times a day, so you should get a response fairly quickly. I have a family, so I am generally not available on the weekend. If you have an issue or concern on the weekend, you will have to wait until Monday in most cases to get a response. Do not panic. I am reasonable, and we can work through any situation.

If you want to talk to me, I suggest that you email me, and we can set up a time that I can call you. Be warned that I do not check my phone messages as often as my email, so it is not a good way to get a hold of me if you need a speedy reply.

Required Materials

All of the required reading materials will be supplied on Canvas as .pdf files. You will need Adobe reader to read the files. As this is the first semester that I have taught this class, I will post papers by week, so you will not have them all in advance. If you plan to be gone or not have access to a computer, please email me ahead of time, and I will get them to you earlier. I will just make it a higher priority on my list.

Computer and Software

Access to a computer with Internet access (the faster the better) and a word-processing software program. You will need Microsoft Word and Adobe Reader.

Web Resources

For this class, we are using an online course management system called Canvas. (UNK is switching from Blackboard to Canvas. By next spring all classes will be on Canvas, so I am attempting to switch all of my classes this semester.) Canvas provides standard interfaces for grades, assignments, discussions, and other functions. You will need to become familiar with this application. There is some online help if you are having difficulty with the system.

There are two important things to remember about this system:

- 1) You **must check and use your UNK email address** to receive and send emails pertaining to this class. The Blackboard system does not allow us to enter any other email address you may be using now.
- 2) Check the announcements page of Blackboard for breaking news. Any information I need to get to the class as a whole will be on this opening page.

In addition, you will find other useful material at the class web site. Among the things on the webpage will be the syllabus and other useful documents, links to other sites that have information we use or you may need to visit to learn information, assignments, and your grades.

Grading Policy

Possible Points

Discussion (10 pts/discussion)	130
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	230 pts

Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned using the standard grading scale for the Department of Biology, as follows: A (93-100%), A- (90-92%), B+ (88-89%), B (83-87%), B- (80-82%), C+ (78-79%), C (73-77%), C- (70-72%), D+ (68-69%), D (63-67%), D- (60-62%), and F (below 60%).

Assignments

Discussion

Each week students will be asked to read the provided papers on various topics. On the Discussion board, each student will be expected to participate in discussion. This can include answering questions, posting questions, introducing new papers, information, and related topics. This is a graduate class, so students are expected to contribute to learning and demonstrate expertise of the topics. You be asked to make two major contributions per week. These cannot both be on the same day. I expect that you will be checking discussion throughout the week. Please see the attached rubric for how I will grade each week.

Criteria	Points Possible		
Two significant contributions	0	1	2
At least two different days	0	1	2
Topic relevant to discussion	0	1	2
Demonstrated thoughtful analysis	0	1	2
Responsive to classmates	0	1	2
Total weekly discussion points	_____ /10 possible		

Final Paper

The final assignment for this class is to write up a 5 page argumentative paper focusing on **“What human behavior has had the greatest impact on emerging infectious disease.”** I

would like you to pick one topic and then provide the support for your conclusion. As a reminder, I would expect that you would have at least three major supports for your argument. You must use research to support your argument, which means that everything must be referenced. Please use in-text referencing using numerals since I will allow legitimate websites as references such as CDC. The format would be to use numbers for each reference as you use them in the text, so the first reference will be (1). The second one used in the text will be (2) and so on. If you use either of those references again in the text they will stay that original number. Then on your references page you just list them in numerical order as you used in the text. (They are not alphabetical order!)

FYI: If it has been awhile since you've done one of these papers, Purdue has a nice description of argumentative essays at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/05>. This is only helpful if you would like more information about how to compose an argumentative essay.

Other Topics of Note

Academic Dishonesty Policy

This policy is stated in the Student Handbook. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is considered a form of cheating. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a 0 and a formal letter will be written and placed in your permanent file. If you receive multiple letters, you could be removed from the program. If you have questions regarding plagiarism, please ask.

Withdraw (W) and Incomplete (I) Grades

Students can drop all classes on MyBLUE. Classes cannot be dropped after the mid-point of the class. The Friday of Fall Break, October 20 is the last day to drop.

Students will receive a "W" on their transcript (which indicates a withdrawal) for classes dropped after midnight the night before the first day of the summer term regardless of the beginning date of the class. A failing grade of 'F' will be recorded on the transcript if a student stops attending class and neither officially withdraws from the course prior to the appropriate deadline nor establishes, prior to the end of the class and to the satisfaction of the instructor, that extenuating circumstances prevented completion of the course.

NOTE: TO DROP A CLASS, STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW PROCEDURES OUTLINED ABOVE. Failure to attend classes does NOT constitute a drop and does NOT cancel the student's registration or obligation to pay all tuition and related fees for the course.

Under very unusual circumstances, a grade of incomplete ("I") may be issued. An incomplete is not a substitute for a "W" (withdraw), and it is not a substitute for a poor or failing grade. An incomplete is issued if circumstances beyond the student's control prevent the student from completing the required work for the class by the end of the semester (example: student is hospitalized during final exam week). An incomplete grade will give you an extension to complete outstanding work only; it is not an opportunity to "start over" in the class. All outstanding work must be completed within one year or the "I" grade automatically converts to a failing ("F") grade. An incomplete grade will be considered only during the final two weeks of the semester, after the deadline for receiving a "W" has passed.

Students with Disabilities or Those Who are Pregnant

Students with disabilities or those who are pregnant are encouraged to contact me for a

confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities or those who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Academic Success Office, 163 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu. For those needing accommodation due to pregnancy, you need to visit with Student Health. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security) 308-865-8911

Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated. **If you have questions regarding the information in this email please contact Mary Chinnock Petroski, Title IX Coordinator (petroskimj@unk.edu or phone **8888**).**

Military and Veteran Students

UNK works diligently to support UNK's military community by providing military and veteran students and families with resources and services to help them succeed. Veterans Services assists with the GI Bill process and acts as a liaison between the students and the Veterans Administration. If you need assistance or would like more information, please contact Lori Weed Skarka at 308-865-8520 or unkveterans@unk.edu.

Schedule: Topics may be subject to change based upon class interest and direction.

Date	Topic	Assignments
Week 1: 08/21-08/27	Introduction and EIDs in the 21 st Century	Read papers and Discussion
Week 2: 08/28-09/03	Cholera	Read papers and Discussion
Week 3: 09/05-09/10	Ebola	Read papers and Discussion
Week 4: 09/11-09/17	<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	Read papers and Discussion
Week 5: 09/18-09/24	<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	Read papers and Discussion
Week 6: 09/25-10/01	<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7	Read papers and Discussion
Week 7: 10/02-10/08	HIV	Read papers and Discussion
Week 8: 10/09-10/15	Influenza	Read papers and Discussion
Week 9: 10/18-10/22	Fall Break	Get to work on final term paper
Week 10: 10/23-10/29	West Nile Virus	Read papers and Discussion
Week 11: 10/30-11/05	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Read papers and Discussion
Week 12: 11/06-11/12	<i>Clostridium difficile</i>	Read papers and Discussion
Week 13: 11/13-11/19	<i>Candida aureus</i>	Read papers and Discussion
Week 14: 11/20-11/26	Thanksgiving Break	Finish up <i>Candida</i> discussion
Week 15: 11/27-12/03	Zika virus	Read papers and Discussion
Week 16: 12/04-12/10		Finish up Discussion and Term Paper
Finals Week: 12/11-12/14		Term paper is due Wednesday, December 13 by 5 p.m. CST