

Neglected Tropical Diseases BIOL 830P
Course Syllabus – Fall 2021

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The course will introduce students to the field of neglected tropical diseases and their impact on global health and social and economic development. This will include an overview of the major neglected tropical diseases and the countries affected by these diseases. Students will review the public health structure of countries affected by neglected tropical diseases, the economic burden of these diseases, disease pathology, and measures to address the burden of neglected tropical diseases in cost-effective ways.

Instructor Contact, Internet, and Software:

The best mode of contact is via email as I am not always near my office phone. Emails will be responded to **within 24 hours on weekdays**. Emails sent after 5 PM CDT on Fridays and on weekends will be replied to on Monday. So do not wait until the weekend to ask questions if you need a quick response.

When taking online quizzes/exams, please use a reliable internet connection.

I use Microsoft Office and will be posting additional readings as PDF files. Software for these programs may have to be purchased (Microsoft Office) or downloaded for free online (PDF viewer).

The class management system known as Canvas will be used to post all materials, conduct discussions, and make announcements. All communication will be through your UNK email address, so please regularly check and use this address for communications.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- The public health dynamics of developing or under-developed countries.
- The health and economic burden of the neglected tropical diseases on endemic countries.
- The pathology of the neglected tropical diseases.
- Challenges in dealing with neglected tropical disease control.

Suggested Textbook: Hotez, Peter. Forgotten People. Forgotten Diseases. The Neglected Tropical Diseases and Their Impact on Global Health and Development, published by ASM Press. Print ISBN : 9781555818746 e-ISBN : 9781555818753

Video Lectures: I will provide video lectures over each topic. I will post the powerpoints and a video on Canvas. Please view them each week, take the quiz, and use them as a jumping off place for discussion.

Course Evaluation:

Discussion (5 pts each)	50 pts
9 Quizzes (10 pts each)	90 pts
1 Final Paper	100 pts
Total:	240 pts

Grading:

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows: A+ (98-100%), A (93-97%), A- (90-92%), B+ (87-89%), B (83-86%), B- (80-82%), C+ (77-79%), C (73-76%), C- (70-72%), D+ (67-69%), D (63-66%), D- (60-62%), F (<60%).

Discussion:

Weekly discussions will be initiated with questions or topics pertaining to the provided material. I expect at significant contributions to each discussion. Discussions will be graded on the following criteria:

How often you participate. Twelve discussions are scheduled. You can miss two without losing any points. .

Quality of the contribution. Please go beyond just agreeing or disagreeing with someone. This will help everyone quickly understand your input and further continue the discussion. Comments should be supported with specific details and pertain to the current topic.

Interaction with classmates. Respect for others is expected along with constructive comments.

Quizzes:

Students will be expected to complete readings and there will be 9 quizzes throughout the semester that will cover the neglected tropical diseases. Each quiz will be taken online through the Canvas course page and will have timed responses. Canvas uses Respondus and lock down browser that will kick you out of the system if you leave the Canvas quiz to click on another page or note if you behave in a questionable manner. Please do not cheat. You need to study the material and take the quizzes as you would on campus. If you are kicked out of the quiz, you will get a 0 on the quiz. Please be prepared to take it once you open the quiz. Quizzes will be available on Tuesday and must be completed by the next Monday.

Final Paper:

Students will select a country of their own interest to go into further detail about: (1) the demographics, healthcare system, economic status, and political environment of the country, (2) a neglected tropical disease or diseases (if you cannot find enough data for a single NTD that is of interest to you) found in this country and in addition provide incidence and prevalence data, who is affected the most, where in the country is the disease the disease located (the whole country or specific regions), economic and social consequences associated with the disease(s), and (3) what is being done at a global, national, and local level in the country to minimize the impact of the disease(s) and what are future outlooks and goals for preventing the disease(s) in the country. **This is not an exhaustive list but is a good start for ideas and areas to research.** If you find something of interest that contributes to the manifestation or prevention of the disease(s) in the country, you should add the information.

Papers should be between 5 and 8 pages double spaced with default setting margins and a separate reference section. References should follow MLA or APA format and come from primary literature and organization webpages. The font should be Cambria or Times New Roman 12pt. Please proof read before submitting to SafeAssign as grammar and spelling will be taken into account as well as the structuring of the paper (the paper should have a logical flow and be clear and concise). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and you should paraphrase source information in your own words instead of using an extensive amount of quotations. Subheadings are recommended but not required. If you have any questions about the paper please ask.

University Statements

COVID Guidelines

The University of Nebraska issued the following statement on August 6, 2021. The statement was reinforced by President Ted Carter on August 13, 2021:

All vaccinated faculty, staff and students, as well as visitors to campus, are encouraged, but not required, to wear face masks indoors. Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks. (Masks are required indoors for all individuals at the University of Nebraska Medical

Center.) <https://nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2021/08/university-of-nebraska-system-updates-covid-19-protocols>

Consistent with the University of Nebraska's guiding protocols, there are circumstances in which many people in our community may not be able to be vaccinated. Faculty may request, not require, that students wear masks in class under circumstances that clearly indicate unnecessary yet controllable risk of infection. Please note that pandemic precautions are subject to change. Please contact me if you are impacted by COVID. We will work together to create a plan based upon each student's situation.

UNK Statement of Diversity & Inclusion:

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our Latinx and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences. The following link provides resources and other information regarding D&I: <https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.php>

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with the UNK Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

Students Who are Pregnant

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact Cindy Ference in Student Health, 308-865-8219. 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>

Veterans Services

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 student 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.

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, Chief Compliance Officer** (petroskimj@unk.edu or phone 8400).

Weekly Schedule:

Week	Topics/Assignments	Readings	Assignments
August 23-30	Syllabus and Introduction		
August 31- September 6	Stigma and Poverty	Chapter 1	Discussion #1 and quiz
September 7-13	The Unholy Trinity	Chapter 2	Discussion #2 and quiz
September 14-20	Schistosomiasis	Chapter 3	Discussion #3 and quiz
September 21-27	Filarial Infections	Chapter 4	Discussion #4 and quiz
September 28- October 4	Blinding NTD	Chapter 5	Discussion #5 and quiz
October 5-11	Mycobacterial Infections	Chapter 6	Discussion #6 and quiz
October 12-17	Kinetoplastid Infections	Chapter 7	Discussion #7 and quiz
October 20-25	Urban NTD	Chapter 8	Discussion #8 and quiz
October 26- November 1	NTD of North America	Chapter 9	Discussion #9 and quiz
November 2-8	Global Network	Chapter 10	Discussion #10
November 9-15	Future Trends	Chapter 11	Discussion #11
November 16-22	Repairing the World	Chapter 12	Discussion #12
November 23- December 13			Paper due by 8 am CST on 12/13/2021