

Neglected Tropical Diseases Biol 830P

Course Syllabus – Fall 2024

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Office hours: MWF 1:30 – 2:30 CST or by appointment

Course Description

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.

Course Objectives: Following completion of this course, students should be able to:

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

Required Text

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

Required Materials

Computer and Software:

Access to a computer with internet access, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Software can be purchased through UNK bookstore at a discount. We will have video presentations that require the use of a webcam. These can be found through Walmart or Amazon starting around \$10.

Communication

The best way to reach me is through email. I will respond to email fairly quickly and if you need to talk to me please email me and we can set up a time to talk further. You should frequently check your UNK email and Canvas for course assignments or announcements. Powerpoints will be posted on Canvas but you will still be required to watch lectures as additional information provided during lectures will be pertinent.

Grading

Introductory Discussion Board	5
Introductory Paper	25
Journal Club Article Presentation	25
Journal Club Discussion (5 points each)	20
Quizzes (10pt each)	80
Midterm Paper	50

Final Paper	50
Total	255

Grades will be assigned using the Department of Biology standard grading scale: 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%).

Finals Week Policy

The final exam will be administered in the time period scheduled during finals week in accordance with University policy ([Final Exam Schedule](#)). More information about UNK's Finals Week Policy, including when it is appropriate to ask for special accommodations to move a course's final exam, can be found here: [Finals Week Policy](#).

Discussions

The first discussion board of the semester will focus on you introducing yourself to your classmates and professor. This serves two purposes; it allows the instructor to get to know each of you but also allows you to figure out the video recording software (Yuja) that you will be using later in semester. Journal article discussions will occur over a 4-week period. Watch two of your classmate's presentations each week and post a comment or question by Friday of that week. Be sure to have a meaningful post so it is clear that you watched their presentation in its entirety.

Quizzes

Students will be expected to complete readings and there will be 8 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. You need to study the material and take the quizzes as you would on campus. If you are found using outside material during the quiz, you will receive a 0. Please be prepared to take it once you open the quiz. Quizzes will be available on Tuesday and must be completed by the following Monday at 11:59pm CST.

Journal Club Article Presentation

Students will be responsible for creating a VIDEO presentation over your journal club article. Students will create a PowerPoint presentation and use Yuja to record the presentation. These presentations should include a small video box of yourself as well. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes long and must include references. Your journal club article must have been published after August 2017. We want to be sure we are selecting current and relevant articles in our discussion of neglected tropical diseases. Selected a primary research article (not a review article) and discuss how the content in the article applies to what we have been learning in class. You should provide sufficient background to your article so it is easy for everyone in the class to follow your presentation. Discuss the methods used in the study, their main findings, then the main conclusions from the article. Be sure to end your presentation with your own discussion of how this article is relevant to our course.

Written Assignments:

Brief Introductory Paper

This paper should be 0.5 – 1 page single-spaced. Start your paper with an introductory paragraph on why you took this course and what you currently know about Neglected Tropical Diseases. The second part of this assignment will lay the foundation for your midterm paper.

Propose a research question that addresses some aspect of neglected tropical diseases (doesn't have to be covered in the syllabus). For example, one might ask how climate change impacts the efforts to limit the spread of a particular neglected tropical disease or how do socioeconomic factors impact the persistence of a particular neglected tropical disease. Once you have your research question, identify 5 primary articles (you can use additional sources in addition to those five primary articles but 5 of the sources must be primary research articles) that will help you answer your research question.

Midterm Paper

The midterm paper will be 2-3 pages single-spaced covering the research question you proposed in your introductory paper. Start by introducing your research question and providing an introductory paragraph that is specific to your research question. After you provide background, discuss the major findings from the literature you selected, discuss how these findings contribute to understanding the challenges or provide possible solutions for neglected tropical diseases, and then end with a discussion of the implications of this work to the global picture of neglected tropical diseases.

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 2 and 3 pages single 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. Please proof read before submitting to TurnItIn 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. The use of AI is not allowed on this assignment; please see the section on AI use in this course. Subheadings are recommended but not required. If you have any questions about the paper please ask.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, please refer to the student handbook or ask me for more clarification on the subject if unsure what constitutes plagiarism. It is expected students work independently on assignments unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Group work where not specified will be considered cheating and students will receive a zero for that assignment. Multiple offenses will result in the student(s) receiving a failing grade for the course and possible removal from the program.

Withdraw (W) and Incomplete (I)

In unusual circumstances beyond the student's control, an incomplete (I) may be issued. The (I) is issued as a final grade with the student having 12 months to complete the necessary work. If the coursework is not completed in this time the (I) will be converted to a failing grade (F) on the student's transcript. Students may withdraw from the course before 12 weeks have been completed and a (W) will appear on the transcript. For courses of duration other than a full fall or spring semester and all summer courses, students may drop courses using MyBLUE and will receive a "W" on the first day of the class through three-fourths of the class meeting duration (e.g., the end of the sixth week of an eight-week course). Students are responsible for filling out the necessary paperwork to complete this process. Instructors are not able to withdraw students. If the student drops the class, the (W) will not contribute to the student's overall GPA.

Student Accommodations

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

UNK Policy for Inclusive Excellence

At UNK, inclusive excellence is rooted in our values.

- **People matter.** The diversity of our students, faculty and staff is essential to our educational mission. Our backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences enrich our learning community.
- **The learning environment matters. We** are committed to an inclusive and equitable student-centered learning environment. In our classrooms we exchange ideas and opinions with respect for one another.
- **Learning matters.** Preparing students to value critical thinking, mutual respect, and open communication is essential for lifelong learning. We are building a community that protects and fosters intellectual inquiry and embraces diverse perspectives.

The following link provides information for students regarding UNK's commitment to inclusive excellence and procedures for improving classroom experience with inclusion and belonging: <https://www.unk.edu/about/dei/inclusive-excellence-in-the-classroom.php> .

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 the Student Health office at 308.865.8218. The following links provide information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <https://thepregnantscholar.org/title-ix-basics/>

<https://nwlc.org/resource/faq-pregnant-and-parenting-college-graduate-students-rights/>

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.

Technical Support

LoperTECH Service Desk Phone: 308-865-8363 Email: support@nebraska.edu
If you are having problems or technical issues with Canvas, please contact ITS.

Course Policies

Contact and Response

- I will try to respond to your emails as quickly as possible (within 2 business days). There may be instances in which I do not respond until the next business day (e.g., if you email me on a Friday night I may not email back until Monday).
- Please check your UNK email account and Canvas announcements on a regular basis. I will only use your official UNK email address for communication, so it is your responsibility to ensure you are receiving emails regarding this course.
- When sending emails, treat the message as if you were sending it in a professional situation (e.g., to a boss or supervisor).

Course Conduct

Be considerate to your fellow students. In this class, I encourage comments and questions. As such, I ask that you are respectful and courteous towards one another.

Late Policy

You are responsible for following the course schedule and completing tasks by their due dates. Late assignments and assessments will NOT be graded. There are no exceptions to this policy. Technology issues are NOT an excuse for late submissions. This includes: corrupted files, spotty WiFi, hard drive failures, and other computer problems. [Note: some late assignments may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor with appropriate documentation.]

Copyright

During this course, you are prohibited from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course.

AI

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. While A.I. is readily available and can be useful in some circumstances, it is essential that you learn basic skills to help you identify what good writing looks like before you'll be able to accurately and ethically employ their use. To better help you meet the learning goals of this course, A.I.-generated submissions are not permitted at all in this course and any use of A.I. tools at any point in your writing process will be treated as plagiarism.

This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter by engaging in critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative exercises. To promote the development of essential skills and encourage active participation, the use of artificial intelligence (A.I.) tools or technologies such as paraphrasing software or ChatGPT is prohibited in this course. Use of any such tools will be considered a violation of the academic integrity policy and disciplinary action will be taken.

Use of an A.I. Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is explicitly prohibited. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials.

Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It's imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized A.I. tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct.

Preparation for class	Dates	Schedule
Chapters 1 & 2	Oct 23 - Oct 28	Introductory Discussion, Introductory Paper
Chapters 3 & 4	Oct 29 – Nov 4	Quiz 1
Chapters 5 & 6	Nov 5 – Nov 11	Quiz 2
Chapter 7	Nov 12 – Nov 18	Quiz 3, Midterm Paper, Journal Club Discussion
Chapters 8 & 9	Nov 19 – Nov 25	Quiz 4, Journal Club Discussion
Chapter 10	Nov 26 – Dec 2	Quiz 5
Chapter 11	Dec 3 – Dec 9	Quiz 6, Journal Club Discussion
Chapter 12	Dec 10 – Dec 16	Quiz 7, Journal Club Discussion
	Dec 17 – Dec 23	Quiz 8, Final Paper