

## GEOGRAPHY 280

*The Geography of Health and Health Care - Winter, 2015*

Tuesdays and Thursdays, **11:30-12:45**, Smith 120

Note: The time schedule says 11:30-1:20 erroneously. This is due to difficulties in room scheduling.

Quiz Sections: See MyUW or UW's Time Schedule

All course materials will be posted in Catalyst's CommonView.

**TAs:**

Andrew Romero ([romera@uw.edu](mailto:romera@uw.edu)) **AC/AD**

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Maggie Wilson ([mmw36@uw.edu](mailto:mmw36@uw.edu)) **AG/AH**

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Jonathan D. Mayer, Professor, Departments of Epidemiology, Geography, Global Health, Internal Medicine (Infectious Diseases), Family Medicine, and Health Services

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Tel: (206) 543-7110

Offices: 412-C Smith Hall (Department of Geography)

Office Hours: By appointment. For an appointment, please send me an email, but write APPOINTMENT in the subject line.

**Note: This is a “W” course. If you want ‘writing credit’, let your TA know when you turn in your final essay.**

Schedule: As noted in the on-line schedule, we will meet for lectures, films, guest lectures, and presentations on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In addition, you will meet in quiz sections. Attendance at quiz section is important for your learning, and is *mandatory*.

Quiz sections are more “discussion sections.” They will consist of some review and discussion of topics introduced in the lecture sessions, but will also introduce some new material, and will also cover the readings. This is also the venue for introducing and grading the assignments, discussed on the last page of this document. There will be a take-home, open book final examination.

**Out of consideration for other students, for the professor and TAs, and for the learning environment, please do not text, email, Facebook, etc. during class. It detracts from the environment, and is inappropriate.**

**THE COURSE:**

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- 1) Understand how health, disease, illness, environment, biology, and society contribute to disease.
- 2) You should be able to understand in-depth articles on this topic in publications such as The Economist, Wall Street Journal, Guardian, and the New York Times. You should be able to write an editorial in any newspaper; and you should be able to describe these relationships to one of your friends in other classes, or to a reasonably intelligent person who is sitting next to you on an airplane.;
- 2) Understand, describe, and critique some of the major contemporary issues in global health;
- 3) Understand how geography as a discipline contributes to understanding health and health care;
- 4) Understand the role of health and disease as fundamental issues in society
- 5) Within the context of the course content, improve your writing, communication, and analytical skills.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

Grades will be based on the following:

- 1) Participation in quiz section (based upon short thought pieces on the reading)—  
10%
- 2) 60% for 3 short papers of equal weight in quiz section (20% each). Each paper should be about 3 pages double-spaced. This will be explained further in quiz section next week.
- 3) 30% for the take-home final essay to be emailed to you on Monday, March 7. This will be due on Monday, March 14. Your TA will give you further instructions closer to the time of submission.

*There will be no in-class exams. All of the assignments are open-book. There is no memorization that is required in this class. Our emphasis is on thinking about the material, synthesizing it, and demonstrating an understanding through your written work.*

A word on academic honesty and integrity is in order. *This is extremely important, so please read this carefully.* If you continue past the first day in class, this means that you agree to abide by the rules spelled out in URL below. We will adhere strictly to the rules of the University of Washington and the academic community in prohibiting plagiarism, cheating, and academic honesty. These provisions are spelled out in detail at the following website, with which all students are expected to be familiar. Each year in this class, several cases of cheating and plagiarism, unfortunately, are discovered. To prevent this, you must read the contents of the following website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

We assume that each and every student is familiar with the contents of this web page. No excuses will be accepted for academic dishonesty. Whenever any written work is submitted, it will be graded with the assumption that the student has read and understood this website, and has agreed to abide by the standards dictated by UW's standards for academic honesty. There will be no acceptable exceptions or excuses for violation of these policies.

## ***READING***

The following books are required for the course. The “default” option is for you to acquire the e-books at about \$10 each. I strongly encourage you to do this for a number of reasons, including environmental conservation. This is not a course where you will need to memorize, so there will be no need to highlight in order to memorize. You are, of course, free to order hard copies from vendors such as amazon.com, bn.com, or elsewhere. These books have not been ordered through the University Bookstore, but you are free to do this.

Please note that Amazon, among other vendors, has a free Kindle app that can be downloaded, included on a Mac or PC. This allows you to read the books in Kindle format. It can be loaded onto a smartphone as well.

See:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?docId=1000493771>

Tracy Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: Healing the World: The Quest of Paul Farmer*. New York: Random House, 2003. E-book available for \$11.99 at:

<http://tinyurl.com/amazon-kidder>

Anne E. Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. MacMillan, 1997 (or 2012 ed). E book available at the following for \$9.99 at

<http://tinyurl.com/me3uhxg>

as well as from other vendors.

Jonathan Harr, *A Civil Action*. New York: Random House, 1995.

E-book available for \$12.99 at

<http://tinyurl.com/zfjjfxf>

Electronic supplements: There will be occasional articles to supplement these books, drawn mostly from the most recent scientific/scholarly literature, ideally published in the preceding few weeks. These will be both emailed to the class list, and posted online in Catalyst CommonView.

Finally, subscribe to the online service ProMED, which is the “Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases.” Go to [www.promedmail.org](http://www.promedmail.org). You will be redirected, and in the upper left, there will be a link to “subscribe/unsubscribe.”

Class papers (the “assignments”) will be due in TA mailboxes (Smith 415) on Fridays.

**Paper #1 will be due by 5pm on January 23.**

**Paper #2 will be due by 5pm on February 13.**

**Paper #3 will be due by 5pm on March 6.**

## COURSE OUTLINE

Note: Dates are only approximate and will vary depending upon “breaking news,” current outbreaks, and course progress. This will undoubtedly include the progress of the Ebola epidemic, the increasing prevalence and spread of influenza.

Weeks of Mon. January 4 and 11: INTRODUCTION TO COURSE AND TO GEOGRAPHY OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

Health and disease

Disease ecology

Definitions

Measures of disease frequency and severity

Weeks of Monday Jan. 18, Jan. 25, and Feb. 1.

The geography, ecology, and epidemiology of Ebola, influenza, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

**NOTE: Monday January 18 is MLK Day. There will be no quiz sections this week. TAs will be available for extended office hours.**

Ebola and its spread: what we know, and what we do not know

Influenza: ecology and spread

HIV and its origins (through history, and molecular epidemiology)

Tuberculosis and ‘syndemic’ of HIV and TB.

Reading:

Week of Monday, Jan. 12. Laurie Garrett, The Challenge of Global Health, *Foreign Affairs*, 2007. On Catalyst CommonView.

**Note that this is a new addition as of Wed. Jan. 7.**

**Week of Mon. Jan 19: Kidder through p. 121**

**Week of Mon. Feb 2: Finish Kidder**

February 8, February 15: GEOGRAPHY OF “APPARENTLY” NON-INFECTIOUS

## DISEASES; ENVIRONMENTAL SOURCES OF DISEASE

NOTE: Feb. 15 is Presidents Day; no quiz sections, but TAs will be available for extended office hours

Cancers and cancer clusters;  
Cardiovascular diseases  
Neurologic diseases (MS)

## February 22: THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC, WALKABLE CITIES, AND DIABETES, HYPERTENSION, AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

## FEBRUARY 29, MARCH 7 : CULTURE, HEALTH, AND HEALTH CARE: THE HMONG AS A CASE EXAMPLE

Reading: Fadiman

### Some useful links for this course:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#). An essential short digest of vital health information and outbreak investigations in the US.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

[Emerging Infectious Diseases](#). A top-notch publication by CDC. You may subscribe to either the online or hard copy editions for free.

[World Health Organization](#)

[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)

[\\*IPCC 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment--Impacts](#) Chapter 8 is the health section

[National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#)

[National Center for Health Statistics](#)

[ProMED](#)

[UNAIDS \(UN Program on AIDS\)](#)

[Stop TB Partnership](#)

[Global Fund to Stop AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria](#)

[UW electronic journal collection](#)

[PubMED](#). (Interface with National Library of Medicine—all major public health, medical, and relevant geography articles are included here) Make sure that you sign in on the top right if you will need links to the actual articles in e-journals.

[Google Flu Trends](#)

[Health and Medical Geography Specialty Group](#)

[Toxic Release Inventory Program](#)—geographically referenced dataset of toxic releases in the US

[National Cancer Institute cancer clusters](#) homepage