Minnesota State University Moorhead

HIST 374: Plagues & Peoples: Disease & the Environment

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 10 - People/Environment

This course introduces the student to the complex and interdependent relationship humans have with disease and the environment. We have long recognized the environment in which we live and work plays a key role in our physical health. To help us understand our modern social, medical, and political response to epidemic disease, we will examine the ways epidemics have taxed economic, religious, and political resources through time. Additionally, we will look at ways society reacted to epidemic disease, and how the medical community evolved to meet this threat. MnTC Goal 5 and 10.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 02/02/2016 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Impact of disease on American society across time.
2. Evolution of American medical system and social responses to disease.
3. Differing understandings of disease and treatment.
4. Role of disease as a weapon.
5. Biomedical research and human subjects.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will be able to articulate the key issues involving disease and disease over the course of history.
2. Students will be able to identify accepted methods of historical research, and will use them to conduct their own research project.
3. Students will be able to identify the major historiographical debates in the history of disease.
4. Students will interpret primary source documents.
5. Students will be able to recognize arguments and evaluate the use of historical evidence.
6. Students will develop skills in both oral and written communication.
7. Students will develop skills finding, interpreting, and organizing research.
8. Students will be able to discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
9. Students will be able to describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic,
religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
10. Students will be able to evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
11. Students will be able to Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted