

PLAGUES AND PEOPLES

Summer 2022

Instructor: Afroza Sultana
Email: sultaa2@mcmaster.ca
Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays
6 pm to 9 pm.

Office: CNH 515
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4:30 pm-
5:30 pm. In-person or by appointment.

Class Location: CNH B 107

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Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge the traditional territories upon which we gather; McMaster University is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations and within the lands protected by the "Dish with One Spoon" wampum agreement." Wampum belts are beads bound onto strings which narrate Haudenosaunee history, tradition and laws. The "Dish with One Spoon" wampum was created to bind the nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to the Great Law of Peace. The "Dish" represents the shared land, while "One Spoon" reinforces the idea of sharing in peace.

Course Description

The recent pandemic of COVID-19 shows us that pandemics affect us beyond physical bodies, affecting marginalized and vulnerable communities and people disproportionately. Pandemic highlights human vulnerability, social inequality, racial dominance and discrimination and unequal power structures. By taking a critical medical anthropological approach, we will learn how pandemics, plagues, and diseases are influenced by larger political, economic, social, and colonial history. We will critically review some of the past and current pandemics to shed light on unequal and oppressive global social relations and structures, climate change, human actions, and political decisions that enhance pandemics and outbreaks.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Explain key concepts related to critical medical anthropology as it relates to plagues and pandemics.
- Recognize patterns of social, political, and environmental conditions that gives rise to disease outbreaks.
- Apply critical medical anthropological concepts to review past and current pandemics.
- Question colonialism to examine past and current pandemics/plagues as they relate to Indigenous and non-western communities
- Challenge taken-for-granted ideas by critically analyzing health campaign posters.

Instructor Info:

Hello. Peace! My name is Afroza Sultana (she/her). You can call me Afroza. I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at McMaster University. My current research interest is in water insecurity and maternal health, designed and carried out with the partnership of the Six Nations Birthing Center at Six Nations of the Grand River.

This research journey with the Haudenosaunee helped me learn about Haudenosaunee mothers' experiences and the holistic health impact of water insecurity. Most importantly, it also helped me relearn myself and decolonize my mind! I love gardening and travelling to new places with beautiful rivers, lakes, the sea, and the ocean.

Email communication: I will reply to your email as soon as possible, but I cannot promise an immediate response! Please allow 24 hours, excluding weekends, to get a response! Please add your full name and student number to all your emails.

Announcement on A2L: I will post all announcements on A2L. Make sure to keep an eye on them. Notification will be posted on A2L for any unexpected cancellation of the class. Check A2L for any announcement before coming to class.

Required Materials and Texts

- Hammond, Mitchell L. 2020. *EPIDEMICS and the MODERN WORLD*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

The book is available at McMaster University Library.

Below are some of the ways you can purchase the book:

Through McMaster University Campus Store.

Publisher's website (link below).

[University of Toronto Press - Epidemics and the Modern World \(utorontopress.com\)](https://utorontopress.com)

Buy or rent e-book via VitalSource (link below).

[Epidemics and the Modern World 1st edition | 9781487593735, 9781487593759 | VitalSource](#)

(Other reading materials will be used as well. Link and/or pdf file will be provided through A2L)

Class Format

We will meet in person twice a week for three hours for this course. Lectures, readings, and class activities will be employed. We will have a 15-minute break and 20 minutes for in-class activities in a three-hour class duration. Avenue to Learn will be the remote base for all relevant course content and assignment submissions. There is no tutorial for this class, but you can reach me during my office hour with any concerns in addition to asking questions in the class. Every class, you will be asked to participate in in-class activities designed to help you better understand course content, clarify any confusion

related to course materials and lectures, provide and receive peer reviews on your assignments, encourage critical thinking, and have fun doing so.

Note: Avenue to Learn may also be used for our group activities.

You are expected to be respectful and courteous in all communications.

Course Evaluation – Overview

Participation portfolio. Due throughout the course	10%
Diagnostic Essay	15%
Critical Review of a Poster related to COVID-19	25%
Final Critical Essay	50%

Course Evaluation – Details

Participation Portfolio 10%, due throughout the course.

You will be given one or two questions to reflect on every week where you will document your thought, insights, confusions, needs related to course contents. This practice will help you to self-assess and me to better understand your needs and accommodate them in lectures and materials. Format of submissions may include written document, drawings, photos, audio or video recordings.

Diagnostic Essay 15% due June 29 by 11 pm.

The purpose of it is to get to know each other better. It will give you an idea about your TA marking and expectations and give us (me and your TA) an idea about your strength and areas to improve. It will help us get some basic things right such as citations, following instructions etc. more detail will be provided in the class and A2L. 400-500 words including references.

Critical Review of Posters 25% due July 11 by 11 pm.

You will find and critically review one public health campaign poster related to COVID-19. 300-500 words. Detail will be posted on A2L.

Critical Essay 50% due 27 July by 11 pm.

You will be given two options to choose from for this Final Essay to critically review and analyze a pandemic/outbreak of your choice covered in the course. You are required to use course materials and lectures along with additional 2 scholarly articles to write your critical essay. You are expected to articulate your thought concisely and analytically. 1000 words or less including references. More detail including analytic rubric will be posted on A2L.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

NOTE: The chapters listed below refer to the chapters listed in the textbook table of contents.

Week 1 (20 & 22 June): Setting the foundation of the course

20 June, Monday – Introduction to the Course

Readings: None

Notes: Fill out the short survey on A2L. This will help me to know about you a little more. Will only take 5 minutes.

22 June, Wednesday – terms and concepts

Readings: Singer, Merril. 2015. Defining the Anthropology of Infectious Disease: Toward a Biocultural/ Biosocial Understanding.

Notes: Complete participation portfolio.

Week 2 (27 & 29 June)

27 June – The Plague: Black Death Part-I

Readings: Chap 1. Bubonic Plague and the Modern State.

29 June – The Plague: Black Death Part- II

Readings: links/pdf article posted on the A2L.

Notes: Diagnostic Essay due by 11 pm on June 29 to A2L.

Complete participation portfolio.

Week 3 (4 & 6 July)

4 July – Syphilis

Readings: Chap 2. Sex, Gender, and the Pox of Many Names.

6 July – Smallpox

Readings: chap 3. Smallpox and American Catastrophe

Notes: Complete participation portfolio.

Week 4 (11 & 13 July)

11 July – Cholera

Readings: Chap 5. Cholera and the Industrial City

Notes: Critical review of health campaign poster due by 11 pm on July 11 to A2L.

13 July – Tuberculosis

Readings: Chap 6. Tuberculosis, social control, and self-control.

Notes: Complete participation portfolio.

Week 5 (18 & 20 July)

18 July – Malaria

Readings: Chap. 9. Malaria and Modern Landscapes.

Notes: bring your assignment outline to get some peer reviews

20 July – Infuenza-1918

Readings: Chap 8. Influenza 1918—One Pandemic, Many Experiences

Notes: Complete participation portfolio.

Week 6 (25 & 27 July)

25 July – COVID-19

Readings: links to materials or pdf will be provided through A2L.

Notes: bring any last-minute questions you may have about the Essay in the class

Complete participation portfolio.

27 July – HIV AIDS

Readings: chap 11. The Faces of HIV AIDS.

Notes: Final Essay Due on July 27 by 11pm.

Week 7 (1 August)

No Classes

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments should be submitted through A2L. Do not email your assignments. All assignments will go through Turnitin. Analytic rubric will be used to grade all assignments. Rubrics will be shared through A2L.

Assignment Reappraisal

Your assignments will be marked by a TA using the grading rubrics provided by the instructor. Please note that Grades are not awarded based on effort but demonstrated achievement. It is normal for assignment grades in university classes to be somewhat lower than high school grades. You are welcome to meet your TA during their office hour to discuss your grade and learn how to do better.

If you disagree with a grade on an assignment, take the following steps:

- Wait 24 hours after viewing your assignment. Re-read the rubric and expectations thoroughly and reflect on what went wrong.
- Seek additional feedback. Contact your grading TA to ask for further feedback.
- Formally request a re-appraisal via email to me, Afroza Sultana. Write a 300-word (max) statement reflecting on the rubrics and explaining why you believe the grader's assessment was mistaken and that you deserve better marks.
- I, Afroza, will re-assess your work using the same rubric as the TA grader.

Please note that requesting a re-appraisal does not guarantee that your mark will increase. Most re-appraisals do not produce a different mark than the original assessment, and some produce a lower mark.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

There will be 24 hour of grace period that you can utilize for any late assignments. You do not need to email me or TA for permission if you utilize this 24-hour grace period. After due date and grace period 3% marks will be deducted up to 3 calendar days (including weekends). A paper more than 3 calendar days late will receive 0 (Zero).

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Please get in touch via email if you are absent due to illness for an extended period. In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work” (MSAF) ([General Academic Regulations - McMaster University \(romcmaster.ca\)](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicregulations)). If you have used your MSAF, and still need relief from academic work, please visit the Faculty of Social Sciences (or your home faculty) to discuss what alternatives might be possible.

Regardless of any illness or other absences, all students must complete all assigned course work (both assignments and both tests). If you receive a faculty issued MSAF, then you still must complete all work within one week of the original due date (not including the grace period). We do not re-weigh any assignments or tests.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

- **Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.
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- Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

- **Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

- **Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**. It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”: <https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=9020#requests-for-relief-for-missed-academic-term-work>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors. The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class.
2. Return of materials to students during office hours.
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail.
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

