

GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS  
BIOLOGY 105 - MODERN DAY PLAGUES  
5 CREDITS  
Instructor: Diane Carter  
2003-2005

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

PREREQUISITES: READ 090 or placement in READ 120; ENGL 101 or concurrent enrollment.

Modern Day Plagues is an overview of microbial disease and disease transmission. The course focuses on the interaction between modern behaviors and environmental changes and the spread of disease in both the local community and globally. Of special concern is the emergence of new viruses, the re-emergence of old plagues, antibiotic resistance and the use of microbes for bioterrorism. 5 lecture hours. Satisfies specified elective requirement for the AA degree.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

The major objectives and outcomes of this course are as follows:

- A. The student will describe the nature of disease, modes of transmission and disease agents. (*disciplinary learning*)
- B. The student will contrast historical and modern issues relating to microbe control. (*disciplinary learning, critical thinking*)
- C. The student will differentiate between viruses, bacteria and other infectious agents. (*disciplinary learning, critical thinking*)
- D. The student will identify how and by whom public health policy is determined. (*disciplinary learning, critical thinking*)
- E. The student will explain current issues relating to the spread of disease. (*disciplinary learning, critical thinking*)
- F. The student will apply information learned to choices regarding personal hygiene, household safety, occupational safety and immunization. (*social and personal responsibility*)
- G. The student will research and share with others a topic of personal interest related to the content of this course. (*disciplinary learning, literacy, using resources*)

This course contributes to the Desired Student Abilities of Grays Harbor College as follows:

- Disciplinary learning (4)
- Critical thinking (3)
- Using resources (1)
- Scientific literacy (1)
- Social and personal responsibility (1)

III. TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS

*The Coming Plague* by Laurie Garrett

IV. COURSE CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

We will work sequentially through some, but not all, chapters in the text. An assignment calendar will provide specifics as to the progress of the course and test dates.

V. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Methods of instruction will include seminars, in-class exercises, lectures, videos, class discussions and a student research project.

VI. EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT METHODS

3 tests = 30% of total grade

Final exam = 20% of total grade

Research paper = 25% of total grade

Seminars and in-class exercises = 25% of total grade

The grading scale is as follows:

A (94%-100%),	A- (90%-93%)	
B+ (87%-89%),	B (84%-86%),	B- (80%-83%)
C+ (77%-79%),	C (74%-76%),	C- (70%-73%)
D+ (64%-69%),	D (60%-64%)	F (0-59%)