Geog 242: Medical Geography
Spring 2014
Sec 01, Code 5046: Th 5.35-8.15pm
HN 1022

Instructor: Prof. Henry Sirotin
Office: 1032 Hunter North
Office Hours: Thursday, 7-7.30pm and by appt.
Email: hsirotin@hunter.cuny.edu; please make sure that all email messages include GEOG 242 in the subject line, and also sign your text with your full name. I do not respond to unsigned emails from addresses like kissmesweetie2960

Course Description and Objectives:

The course will cover an introduction to medical geography, which, over the last several decades, has emerged as a significant subfield integrating medicine with human and physical geography and climatology. Medical geography includes two major themes, disease ecology (the relationship of disease to both the natural and human environment) and the spatial/social aspects of the provision of medical care in society. This course will examine both of these themes, as well as the concepts and methodologies that form the basis of the study.

The course is recommended for any student interested in medicine or a medically related career, either professionally or out of general interest. As a 200 level course it will be taught at the general interest level, but I can adjust the content to the class interest, and I can certainly work with students who are interested in more advanced material.

Some of you may be familiar with the ideological issues in Geography of Health and Medical Geography. My background is disease ecology and my approach is objectivist geography, not critical studies, although I will draw from any approach I think relevant. Alternative views are always welcomed, if well defended.

Learning outcomes include
1. Knowledge of disciplinary content, including the evolution of medical and health geography, basic health statistics, the demographic and epidemiological transitions, transmissible and environmental disease, the spatial pattern of health care, and the social, economic, and medical factors underlying these issues.
2. An understanding of the use of geographic tools, including elementary statistics, maps, remote sensing, and geographic information systems, in tracking health and disease patterns and the spatial analysis of health care provision.
3. An understanding of the potential health outcomes that may result from changes in our physical environment, and the spatial state of our health care system. In addition, non-Western health care systems will be examined.
4. The ability to think and write critically about the above topics.
Statement on Syllabus Change:
Except for changes that substantially affect grading, this syllabus is a guide to the course and is subject to change. Any such changes will be noted in class and on Blackboard.

Course Materials:
The text is available at Shakespeare Books, 939 Lexington Ave., across the street from Hunter. For value copies, including used, e-book, and rentals, check <http://www.allbookstores.com/book/compare/9780415498067>

Additional readings will be assigned in the course of the term, either posted on Blackboard or using the Library’s ERes system.

I will be communicating with you both in class and by Blackboard, so make sure your Blackboard account is active. I will not be responsible for bounce backs from your accounts, Please note that this has been a particular problem with transfers still using CUNY Community College accounts. Except for changes that substantially affect grading, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes will be given in class and through Blackboard notification.

Requirements and Grading:
There will be a midterm and a final exam, with a format to be announced in class. The exams will not be cumulative. The midterm date is tentative, but I will provide at least one week’s notice on the date of the exam. Both exams, or approved make-ups, must be taken. Makes-ups will be scheduled at my convenience.

There will also be a series of short online quizzes on the textbook, format to be decided, courtesy of the new CUNY educational paradigm.

And there will be a required five to seven page research paper on a subject of your choosing related to the course material. I will allow considerable leeway in choosing subject matter, but the subject, or any changes in same, must be approved by me before you begin research. The paper must be literate and include sources in either footnotes or endnotes. I will provide further guidance on format at a later date, as well as individual guidance on subject and sources. A timeline for the paper is included in the Calendar below.

The two exams and the paper will each count for 25% of the final grade, with 15% for the online quizzes and the remaining 10% based on class participation, and the grade will be assigned as a letter grade based on the numerical standards that can be found in the Hunter College Undergraduate Catalogue.

*Please be aware that the number of students I have each term makes it impossible for me to offer extra credit assignments.*

To receive an incomplete (IN) a student must present evidence of a satisfactory reason and must have done “C“ work or better PRIOR to the filing of the incomplete; otherwise, the student will receive a grade of WU.
Statement on Academic Integrity:
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

Classroom Electronics:
I permit the use of electronic recording devices and dictionaries during lectures. ALL other personal electronics should be turned off before coming into the classroom. This includes mobile phones, PDAs, etc. A computer may be used FOR TAKING NOTES ONLY, but if what you are doing becomes a distraction to others around you, I will ask you to shut it off. In-class text messaging is a sign of disrespect both to the instructor and to your fellow students, and may be reflected in your grade. If you have an emergency message, take it outside the room.

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED DURING EXAMS. Violation of this rule will result in an automatic grade of zero for the exam, and the possibility of further disciplinary action.

ADA Policy
In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Other Notes
I would suggest you develop a “buddy system” with one or more classmates to cover notes should you miss a session.

Calendar: (all classes on Thursday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30th</td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 20th</td>
<td>No class, school on Monday schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 15th, 17th, 22nd</td>
<td>No classes; Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 24th</td>
<td>Last day to drop with a grade of “W”</td>
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<td>Term paper topic approval required</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15th</td>
<td>Last day of class, term papers due.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22nd</td>
<td>Final exam, in class at 6.00 pm.</td>
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Course Outline:
1. Introduction to Medical Geography (Introduction and pp.13-14, 77-81) [Jan 30th, Feb 4th]
   a. What is medical geography, and why is it important?
   b. Approaches to the study: positivism vs. post-modernism
   c. Medical geography and the geography of health

2. Demographics and Disease (pp.33-38) [Feb 6th, 11th, 13th]
   a. Demographic statistics
   b. The Demographic and Epidemiological Transitions

3. Disease Ecology
   a. The natural environment: biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere
   b. Biogenic disease (chap. 2 and pp. 36-55) [Feb 18th, 27th, Mar 4th, Mar 6th]
   c. Geogenic disease (chap. 4) [Mar 11th, 13th, 18th]
   d. Social and economic conditions underlying disease ecology (chaps 5, 6)
      [Mar 20th, 25th, 27th, Apr 1st, 3rd]

   Midterm [Apr 8th- tentative]

4. Provision of Medical Service (chaps. 7, 8) [Apr 10th, 24th, 29th, May 1st]
   a. Resources and politics
   b. Utilization

5. Methodologies (chaps. 9, 10) [May 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th]
   a. Field work
   b. Remote sensing
   c. Mapping
   d. Geographic information systems [GIS] and computer modeling

Final Exam date to be determined.

Well behaved children are always welcome.