

FYOS 1001 - EBOLA

John M. Drake

Spring 2017

Course Information

Class time: Thursdays, 8:00-9:15am

Location: Ecology 117

Instructors: Dr. John Drake (Office: 133 Ecology, email: jdrake@uga.edu)

Overview. The 2013-2015 Ebola epidemic in West Africa was a public health emergency of international concern. This event highlights the interconnections among clinical medicine, social forces and culture, government, poverty, and ecology that give rise to emerging infectious diseases. This seminar will study this event from multiple points of view. Students will consider how a multi-disciplinary perspective provides a richer understanding of the development of the epidemic. Students will investigate how social, ecological, and geographic conditions both created a context for the Ebola virus to emerge in West Africa and enabled sustained transmission. This event provides a focal point for considering the role of emerging infectious diseases in public health.

Course objectives. The aim of this course is to understand the new interdisciplinary field of data science. As a First Year Odyssey Seminar, the course has three goals:

1. Introduce first-year students to the importance of learning and academics so that we engage them in the academic culture of the University.
2. Give first-year students an opportunity for meaningful dialogue with a faculty member to encourage positive, sustained student-faculty interactions.
3. Introduce first-year students to the instruction, research, public service and international missions of the University and how they relate to teaching and learning in and outside the classroom so that we increase student understanding of and participation in the full mission of the University.

Format and assignments. Class sessions will consist of group discussions of course readings and writing assignments. These sessions are designed to cultivate habits of mind that facilitate critical thinking and to introduce techniques of oral discourse. Students are expected to have read the assigned reading and be prepared for discussion. Short writing assignments will be used as a platform for exploration and knowledge development, to hone written communication skills, and to provide a basis for sustained reflection.

Readings. The main text to be used in this class is *Ebola's Message: Public Health and Medicine in the Twenty-First Century* (MIT Press, 2016), edited by Nicholas Evans, Tara Smith, and Maimuna Majumder. Additional readings will be assigned in class.

Attendance. Attendance is essential. If you miss a class, you are responsible for contacting fellow students for lecture notes. More than one unexcused absence will result in a lowering of your final score by one letter grade. An excused absence is constituted by the student notifying the instructor in advance and documenting reason of absence immediately upon return to the class.

Grade calculation. 50% Participation and class discussions 40% Short writing assignments 10% Student sharing during final class session

Accommodations. Please contact the instructor if you require special accommodations due to learning disabilities, religious practices, physical or medical needs, or for any other reason.

Official University Policy. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Schedule of topics

| Date | Chapter | Topic |
|---------|----------------|--|
| Jan 5 | - | Introduction |
| Jan 12 | Chapters 1-2 | What is Ebola / Ebola in West Africa |
| Jan 19 | Chapter 3 | Clinical management of Ebola in resource-rich settings |
| Jan 26* | Chapter 4 | Modeling the Ebola epidemic |
| Feb 2 | Chapter 5 | Outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea |
| Feb 9 | Chapter 6 | Challenges in the management of the West African Ebola outbreak |
| Feb 16 | Chapter 7 | Ebola origin stories |
| Feb 23* | Chapter 8 | American perceptions of Africa during an Ebola outbreak |
| Mar 2 | Chapter 9 | Legal analysis of US pandemic preparedness |
| Mar 16 | Chapter 10 | Medical journalism in an age of social media |
| Mar 23 | Chapter 11 | Media coverage of Ebola in the digital communication era |
| Mar 30* | Chapter 12 | When reassurance doesn't reassure: Reporters, sources, and Ebola in Dallas |
| Apr 6 | Chapters 13-14 | Ethics and Ebola |
| Apr 13 | Chapter 15 | History, culture, and social norms: Implications for clinical trials |
| Apr 20 | Chapter 16 | Quarantine |

*Writing assignment due