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School of Diplomacy and International
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Fall 2021

DIPL 4277 AA Global Health, Bioterrorism, and International Security

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GLOBAL HEALTH, BIOTERRORISM, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DIPL 4277AA
M 2:00-4:30pm

Fall 2021
Muscarelle Hall 08

Dr. Yanzhong Huang
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appointment

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Course Overview

Global health issues have affected world history more extensively than most of us can imagine. As shown in the COVID-19 pandemic, international travel threatens transborder epidemics by transporting and spreading diseases globally at jet speed. The growing risk of exposure to infectious disease, coupled with the threat of intentional release of pathogens, creates a situation in which health and security are interacting with greater frequency and intensity. This development parallels efforts to redefine the concept of security to encompass new global challenges. This interdisciplinary course focuses on global health security by addressing the following questions: How did epidemics function as agents of historical change? What are the major linkages between health and security? Should new global health challenges such as non-communicable diseases be framed as problems that require response from the national security community? How does the “securitization of health” affect the governance of particular health problems? Conversely, how do the discussions and debates on health security transform our understanding of security?

This interdisciplinary course focuses on global health security. It has four main content objectives: 1) to examine the historical impact of infectious disease; 2) to clarify the processes by which health problems function to threaten national or international security; 3) to assess the security implications of emerging global health challenges; and 4) to explore the pros and cons of securitizing global health challenges. By the end of the semester, students should have acquired knowledge and understanding of key concepts, theories, and debates involved in the study of global health security. Students should have also developed the skills to conduct analysis of global health issues and effectively communicate the analysis to the policy and academic community.

Textbooks

William H. McNeill, *Plagues and Peoples* (New York: Anchor Press, 1976).

Andrew Price-Smith, *Contagion and Chaos: Disease, Ecology, and National Security in the Era of Globalization* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009).

Student Responsibilities

Reading Requirements and Class Participation

It is your responsibility to be in class, on time, each day. Attendance is essential for class participation. Your final grade will be lowered by one-half letter grade for each absence beyond **two** (e.g., If your grades average to “B+,” your final grade, with one absence beyond limit, will be reduced to “B”).

Students are expected to complete all the required readings prior to coming to class. Students who fail to read will have trouble keeping up with the class. Moreover, meaningful and lively discussions depend on completion of the readings before the class period in which they will be discussed. Your performance in completing assigned readings and participating in class discussions will be an important component of your “participation” grade.

Late Work Policy

All assignments and exams should/must be completed by the scheduled time. Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have a proven excuse. If for some substantial reason you cannot turn in your assignment or make a presentation at the scheduled time you must/should contact me *directly* prior to the scheduled date to avoid the penalty.

Policy on Incompletes:

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an “FI” (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

Coronavirus Safety

As of right now, our mask mandate is mandatory for indoors (unless you’re alone or eating) and in effect until further notice. No mask, no class. Updates can be found here: <https://www.shu.edu/health-intervention-communication/>

Citation Formats

Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page.

Grading

Your grade for this course will be based on the following:

1. A blog-style essay on global health security issues: 20%
2. Oral presentation: 20%
3. Take-home final: 35%
4. Class participation, including attendance and in-class discussions: 25%

Grading Scale

A	94-100%	A-	90-93%	B+	87-89%
B	83-86%	B-	80-82%	C+	77-79%
C	73-76%	C-	70-72%	D+	67-69%
D	60-66%	F	59% and below		

Students who submit all of the assignments on time will receive one full extra credit point to their total final grade.

About the Syllabus

In view of the progress of the course, the instructor may modify the course contents and schedule. Every effort will be made to notify the class should such a deviation become necessary.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here: <https://www.shu.edu/student-life/upload/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf> and <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

Resources for academic integrity are on the course Blackboard page.

Disability Services Statement

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

CAPS

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can

be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychological-services/index.cfm>

COVID Ground Rules

We're in a global pandemic. These are scary times. If you tell me you are struggling, I am not going to judge you or think less of you. You do not owe me personal information about your health (mental or physical) or living circumstances (and, for your sake as well as mine, I would prefer if you not get into specifics). If you need more time on an assignment, JUST ASK. There are LOTS of campus resources (both virtual and in-person) available; use them. So, let's agree on some ground rules: I will try my best and you will try your best. I will cut you some slack, provided you communicate with me about your constraints. And I expect you to cut me some slack, too.

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

Aug. 30 **Introduction**

Sept. 6 University Closed

Sept. 13 **Epidemics in Historical Perspective**
McNeill, *Plagues and Peoples* (entire)

Price-Smith, Ch. 2

Sept. 20 **Case Study: The 1918 Spanish Influenza**
Documentary: *Deadliest Plague of the 20th Century: Flu of 1918*
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDY5COg2P2c>)

Price-Smith, Ch. 3

Richard Gunderman, "Ten Myths About the 1918 Flu Pandemic," January 12, 2018

Sept. 27 **Biological Weapons and Biological Warfare**
John Steinbruber, "Biological weapons: A plague upon all houses,"
Foreign Policy, Winter 97/98 (WLO3.1, WLO3.3, CLO2, CLO5)

W. Seth Carus, "A century of biological-weapons programs (1915–2015): reviewing the evidence," *The Nonproliferation Review* 24, no. 1-2, 2017, 129-153 (WLO3.2, CLO1, CLO3)

Yanzhong Huang, "U.S.-Chinese Distrust Is Inviting Dangerous Coronavirus Conspiracy Theories," *Foreign Affairs*, March 5, 2020

- October 4 Bioterrorism and Biosecurity**
 H. J. Jansen, F. J. Breeveld, C. Stijnis, M.P. Grobusch, "Biological warfare, bioterrorism, and biocrime," *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, June 2014.
- Laurie Garrett, "The Nightmare of Bioterrorism," *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2001, pp. 76-89.
- Laurie Garrett, "Biology's Brave New World," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2013
- Tim Newman, "Bioterrorism: Should we be worried?" *Medical News Today*, 28 February 2018
- October 11 HIV/AIDS and Security**
 Price-Smith, Ch. 4
- Colin McInnes and Simon Rushton, "HIV, AIDS and Security: Where are we now?" *International Affairs* 86, no. 1 (2010): 225-245
- Alexandra Ossola, "How HIV became a matter of international security," May 16, 2017
- October 18 Pandemic Flu and Security**
 Christian Enemark, "Is Pandemic Flu a Security Threat?" *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy* 51, no. 1 (Feb-March 2009): 191-214
- Adam Kamradt-Scott, "Pandemic Influenza: 'The Most Feared Security Threat'," in *Managing Global Health Security* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 125-149. (the chapter can be downloaded from the website)
- GAVI, "How Does COVID-19 Compare to Past Pandemics?" June 1, 2020
- October 25 Noncommunicable Diseases and Security**
The Emerging Global Health Crisis: Noncommunicable Diseases in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, Council on Foreign Relations Independent Task Force Report, December 2014
- Amrita Saha & George Alleyne, "Recognizing noncommunicable diseases as a global health security threat," *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2018;96:792-793.
- November 1 Limits of Securitization of Health**
 William Aldis, "Health security as a public health concept: a critical analysis," *Health Policy and Planning* 2008;23: 369–375.

Stefan Elbe, "Haggling over viruses: the downside risks of securitizing infectious disease," *Health Policy and Planning* 25 (2010): 476-485

Yanzhong Huang, "The Downside of Securitizing the Ebola Virus," Council on Foreign Relations Expert Brief, November 25, 2014

Essay due

Nov. 8 Pros and Cons of Securitization: The Case of COVID-19

Nathan Alexander Sears, "The Securitization of COVID-19: Three Political Dilemmas," *Global Policy*, 25 March 2020

Gary Geipel, "National Security Implications of COVID-19: A Framework," July 9, 2020

Robert Hamilton, "COVID-19 and Pandemics: The Greatest National Security Threat of 2020 and Beyond," July 9, 2020.

Yanzhong Huang, "Why the World Lost to the Pandemic," *Foreign Affairs*, January 28, 2021.

Nov. 15 Video Session

Nov. 22 Student Presentations

Nov. 29 Thanksgiving Break. University Closed.

Dec. 6 Student Presentations

Dec. 13 Student Presentations and Course Wrap-up

*****Take Home Final due on Monday, December 20*****