



**FLORIDA
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY**

**NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
Undergraduate Programs**

Department Anthropology

College Arts & Letters

(To obtain a course number, contact erudolph@fau.edu)

UUPC Approval 3/27/23

UFS Approval _____

SCNS Submittal _____

Confirmed _____

Banner Posted _____

Catalog _____

Prefix ANT
Number
4532

(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)

Lab Code

Type of Course

Lecture

Course Title

Epidemics: Culture, Science, and Policy

Credits (See Definition of a Credit Hour)
3

Grading (Select One Option)

Regular

Sat/UnSat

Course Description (Syllabus must be attached; see *Template and Guidelines*)
This course explores the evolving relationship between humans and non-human microbiota. Beginning with the modern era, we will study infectious disease epidemics and the critical contexts in which they occur (e.g., ecological, political, social, and cultural).

Effective Date (TERM & YEAR)
Fall 2024

Prerequisites, with minimum grade*
None

Corequisites
None

Registration Controls (Major, College, Level)
None

**Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course*

WAC/Gordon Rule Course

Yes No

WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See [WAC Guidelines](#).

Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement (Select One Option)

None

General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See [Intellectual Foundations Guidelines](#).

Minimum qualifications to teach course

PhD in Anthropology or related field

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone

Katharina Rynkiewich / krynkievich@fau.edu/561-297-3241

List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course

All are supportive of your proposed courses moving forward Biological Sciences has no objection to these courses

Sociology, Biology

Approved by

Department Chair

[Signature]

College Curriculum Chair

Eric Hanne

College Dean

[Signature]

UUPC Chair

Ethlyn Williams

Undergraduate Studies Dean

Dan Meeroff

UFS President

Provost

Date

2/27/23

3/23/23

3/23/23

3/27/23

3/27/23

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

ANT 4532

Epidemics: Culture, Science, and Policy

Spring 2025

3 credits, Class meeting time

Prof. Katharina Rynkiewich

Office: Room _____

Office hours: _____ & via appointment

Classroom: Room _____

Email: krynkievich@fau.edu



Course Description

This course explores the evolving relationship between humans and non-human microbiota. Beginning with the modern era, we will study infectious disease epidemics and the critical contexts in which they occur (e.g., ecological, political, social, and cultural).

Instructional Method

Mixed Online and Classroom. There is no remote-only option for this course. Students are expected to attend in-person lectures and discussion as well as participate in the online aspects of the course. Students are expected to contact the professor if unable to attend.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

There are no related prerequisites/corequisites for this course.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Discuss infectious disease epidemics (e.g., H1N1 influenza, SARS coronavirus, HIV/AIDS, and global cholera epidemics) from a critical anthropological perspective
- Analyze contexts (e.g., ecological, political, social, and cultural) of disease outbreaks
- Evaluate conceptual and practical approaches to the emergence, transmission, prevention, and control of infectious diseases found in assigned ethnographic case studies
- Locate the role(s) of anthropological research in responses to infectious disease outbreaks

Required Texts

There are three required books for this course:

1. *Epidemiology & Culture* by James A. Trostle. Cambridge University Press. 2005.
2. *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic – and How it Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*. Steven Johnson. Riverhead Books. 2007.
3. *I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grander View of Life*. Ed Yong. HarperCollins. 2016.

Supplemental readings, such as journal articles or book chapters, are available via links on the Canvas site and are listed in the course schedule.

Course Grading

Discussion and participation 35%

Reading responses 35%

In-person midterm assignment 15%

Final paper 15%

Grade Cutoffs

94-100 = A

84-86 = B

74-76 = C

64-66 = D

90-94 = A-

80-83 = B-

70-73 = C-

61-63 = D-

87-89 = B+

77-79 = C+

67-69 = D+

0-60 = F

Course Assignments

Written assignments should follow standard formatting guidelines (i.e., 12 pt Times New Roman with 1" margins) and should follow the author-date citation format (i.e., Roberts 1998).

Discussion and participation (35%): You are expected to come to class on time having read and considered the assigned readings for that day. You are not expected to understand everything in the readings, but you should come prepared to share your thoughts and questions. During class you are expected to be present and engaged. During the semester each student will get the opportunity to co-lead class discussion with the professor on an assigned reading. There will be additional in-class activities to facilitate discussion through the semester.

Reading responses (35%): Reading responses will give you an opportunity to work through key methods and theories as they are discussed in assigned readings. Reading responses should be submitted on Canvas by 11:59pm ET on the day **before** class as indicated in the course schedule. Reading responses should contain two-three paragraphs (300-400 words) of questions and connections from the assigned course readings. Students should complete 13/15 responses.

In-person midterm assignment (15%): Two short essay questions related to the readings from the first half of the course will be made available by the professor. Your responses to these questions will be due in-class on the date listed in the course schedule.

Final paper (15%): For the final paper assignment, you will select a theme from the anthropological literature on infectious diseases. Topics will be finalized following discussions with the instructor as indicated in the syllabus. You will write an 8–10-page (double spaced) paper describing contexts and critical interventions of theory and method related to the theme. Final papers are due on the course website and do not need to include outside sources.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in university-approved activities. Examples of university-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a university-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Students in this course are expected to attend class and satisfy all assignments and coursework. In class, you are expected to give the professor your full attention. You are expected to complete all assignments regardless of absences. If you do not feel well, you are encouraged to stay hydrated and take care of yourself. If you need to stay home, you are expected to let the professor know via email in advance of class. While course attendance is not considered a part of the overall grade, a failure to communicate with your professor regarding planned and/or unplanned absences will ultimately be reflected in the grade for discussion and participation as well as individual assignments. For any absences, you are responsible for communicating and staying up to date in the course.

Classroom Etiquette Policy

All interactions in class will be civil, respectful, and supportive of an inclusive learning environment for all students. You are encouraged to speak to the professor during office hours about any concerns you have regarding class participation and class dynamics.

Disruptive behavior is defined in the FAU Student Code of Conduct as "... activities which interfere with the educational mission within classroom." Students who disrupt the educational experiences of other students and/or the professor's course objectives in a face-to-face or online course are subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior impedes students' ability to learn or a professor's ability to teach. Disruptive behavior may include but is not limited to non-approved use of electronic devices (including cellphones); cursing or shouting at others in such a way as to be disruptive; or other violations of a professor's expectations for classroom conduct. You are asked not bring distractions (e.g., food) to class. Any use of small electronic devices (i.e., cell phones) during class will negatively impact your grade.

For more information, see the FAU Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution:
<https://www.fau.edu/studentconduct/>

Preferred Name

In the classroom the professor and students will use your preferred name. Should you wish to change your preferred name at the university level, see the FAU Office of the Registrar:
<https://www.fau.edu/registrar>

Late work, Make up work, and Incompletes

A student who has previously communicated about their inability to complete an assignment on time will be given full consideration by the professor. The professor and student will create a plan for any late or missing work contingent on timing of the request. End of semester is not a time to review work due at the beginning of semester.

Students participating in university-approved activities (e.g., athletic teams, scholastic teams, musical and theatre performances, etc.) will be allowed to make up missed work without reduction in final grade. An incomplete grade is reserved for students who are passing a course at end of semester but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances.

Dropping / Withdrawing from the Course

You are responsible for completing the process of dropping or withdrawing from a course. Consult the FAU Registrar's Office for more information: <https://www.fau.edu/registrar/>

Communication

The professor will respond to emails and requests for meetings within 48 hours of receipt. Similarly, all assignment feedback will be given within one week of the submission date. Some assignments may take longer to review, in which case the professor will notify you of the delay.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject.

Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally, and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Additional University Resources

[Center for Learning and Student Success](#)

[FAU Libraries](#)

[Office of Information Technology Helpdesk](#)

[Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry](#)

[University Center for Excellence in Writing](#)

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high-quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

Plagiarism is defined as, "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work" (from Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd. Ed. (1993)). [FAU Libraries](#)

Plagiarism is more than copying work. It can include improper paraphrasing, not correctly citing the work of others, or reusing the work done for one class or project in a different one. Plagiarism can occur in a school or university, and on a job or in professional settings. Outside of school, authors, speakers, entertainers, and other public figures have gotten their works plagiarized, and these same types of people have been accused of plagiarism. See this guide for more about plagiarism, why it matters, and what you can do to minimize it. [FAU Libraries](#)

University Policy on Critical Thought and Debate

One of the objectives of this course is to facilitate critical thinking and debate around topics, theories, and concepts where disagreement is not only anticipated, but encouraged. The ability to think critically, express your ideas clearly, and respond to the professor and other students civilly

are the keystones of the academic experience. In this course, the professor will provide instruction in an objective manner and will remain open to a wide variety of viewpoints, so long as those viewpoints are evidence-based and presented in a respectful way.

During class, the professor may take positions and make statements for the sole purpose of accomplishing an academic objective or enhancing the learning environment. Additionally, the adoption of class materials for this course does not imply an endorsement of the full content of those materials or the positions of the authors of those materials. Often the professor will provide materials as a point of departure for critical thinking and debate. Students should keep in mind that the ideas presented or discussed during class may not necessarily reflect the professor's personal beliefs or opinions on the subject matter.

Disclaimer

The professor reserves the right to make modifications to the course syllabus and schedule throughout the semester.

Course Topical Outline

Day	Description	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
January 10	Course introductions		
January 12	Foundations I: Humans & Microbes	<i>Introductory Lecture</i>	
January 17		<i>I Contain Multitudes</i> (Ed Yong) – Day 1	Response #1
January 19		<i>I Contain Multitudes</i> (Ed Yong) – Day 2	Response #2
January 24	Foundations II: Humans & Microbes	<i>Introductory Lecture</i>	
January 26		<i>Epidemiology & Culture</i> (James Trostle) – Day 1	Response #3
January 31		<i>Epidemiology & Culture</i> (James Trostle) – Day 2	Response #4
February 2		Student Check-ins for Final Paper	
February 7	Epidemics Throughout History – Part 1	<i>Introductory Lecture on Influenzas</i>	
February 9			Response #5
February 14		<i>Introductory Lecture on Cholera</i>	

February 16		<i>The Ghost Map</i> (Steven Johnson) – Day 1	Response #6
February 21		<i>The Ghost Map</i> (Steven Johnson) – Day 2	Response #7
February 23		<i>The Ghost Map</i> (Steven Johnson) – Day 3	Response #8
February 28	Foundations: Doing Outbreak Investigations	<i>Introductory Lecture</i>	
March 2		In-class midterm assignment	
March 4-10		Spring Break – No classes	
March 14	Epidemics Throughout History – Part 2	<i>Introductory Lecture on HIV/AIDS and Ebola</i>	
March 16			Response #9
March 21			Response #10
March 23		Student Check-ins for Final Paper	
March 28	Epidemics Throughout History – Part 3	<i>Introductory Lecture on Coronaviruses</i>	
March 30			Response #11
April 4			Response #12
April 6			Response #13
April 11	Foundations: Systems & Interventions	<i>Introductory Lecture on Systems & Interventions</i>	
April 13			Response #14
April 18			Response #15
April 20	Course Conclusion		Course evaluations
April 24-26		Reading Days – No classes	
April 27		Final Exams Begin	Final Paper Due May 1@11:59PM