

History 2818G, Winter 2026—Plague and Death from Antiquity to the 18th Century

Health Sci Bld 35

Wednesdays 9:30-11:30

Instructor: Dr. Mitchell Hammond

Email: mhammo42@uwo.ca

Office: Lawson Hall 2218

Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-3:00
or by appointment

DRAFT OUTLINE



Delaunay, *La peste à Rome* (1869)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From ancient pestilences to the medieval ‘Black Death’ to outbreaks of plague and yellow fever through the 18th century, this course examines the environmental, social and cultural consequences of significant infectious diseases. We will explore how medical experts explained disease and treatment options, and also consider social responses to disease through the lenses of power, class, race and gender.

COURSE SYLLABUS

In this class students will build the following competencies and skills:

- Understand key events and concepts in the history of pandemics before 1800.
- Understand the interdisciplinary nature of investigation in this field of inquiry.
- Evaluate diverse forms of historical evidence and cultivate interpretive skills.
- Strengthen writing skills for history and related disciplines.
- Engage with faculty and peers in a collaborative, respectful atmosphere.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Students must complete all assignments and the exam to pass the course.

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| Two 1000-word primary source analyses (10% each): | 20% |
| Online comprehension exercise: | 10% |
| Midterm Quiz | 10% |
| Two in-class writing assignments (10% each) | 20% |
| Final Exam (designated exam period): | 40% |

Make-up final exams can only be approved by Academic Advising. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.