

POLI:3550:0001 Politics of Epidemics: International Conflict and Cooperation

Class Hours: 3:30-4:45P TTH

Class Location: 71SH

Instructor: Byung-Deuk Woo

Office Hours: By Appointment Through Zoom

Introduction, Goals, and Objectives

This course explores the political and social causes and consequences of epidemics. The course asks the following three important questions: How does an epidemic affect individual country's foreign policy? Does an international conflict spread diseases? Does an epidemic cause international conflict or promote international cooperation? Even though there are no absolute answers to those questions, students will learn about series of theories related to international conflict and cooperation, histories of major infectious diseases and their influences on International Relations and Foreign Policy, and the roles of international conflicts behind epidemics.

After theories about foreign policy, international conflict and cooperation are covered, series of major epidemics in several geo-political regions, and their influence on international conflict and cooperation will be examined. The following epidemics and regions will be mainly focused on: Black Death (1331-1353) in Europe, Yellow Fever in America (1793-1798), Cholera pandemic (1817-1824; 1863-1879; 1881-1896; 1899-1923) in Asia and Middle East, Spanish Flu pandemic (1918-1920) in Europe, Asian Flu (1957-1958) in Asia, HIV/AIDS (1960-present) in Middle East, SARS (2002-2004) in Asia, Ebola (2013-2016) in Western Africa,

Swine Flu (2009-2010), and Zika Epidemic (2015-2016) in the World. Thereby, students will apply theories based on the past epidemic cases to the case of COVID-19 (2019-present) in the World.

Students of all majors are welcomed to this course and no prior knowledge about disease science, history, and any regional specialty is required or assumed. The success in this course depends on your eagerness to learn and curiosity about the causes and consequences of epidemic on international conflict, cooperation, and foreign policy. Both academic and non-academic reading materials will be regularly assigned.

Course Learning Goals:

- 1) Students will be able to identify and describe major epidemics and related events in the world history.
- 2) Students will be able to identify and describe multiple approaches to analyze countries' behaviors under the epidemics.
- 3) Students will analyze and argue debates in current COVID-19 issues.

Reading Materials

There are no assigned books. I will upload reading materials including news articles, journal articles, etc. on ICON.

Requirements & Evaluations

Two essay exams (50%)

You will be assigned to two essay exams during the semester. The essay exams are take-home

exams and you have one week to write and submit your answers. The number of questions will be two to three. You are required to write answers more than 4 pages (double space, 12pt, times new roman) and there is no upper limit. The topics will be announced before the exams. The topics might be related to the “application of theories in international relations to countries’ behavior under epidemics”.

Group Project (30%)

As a group project, you will write a group paper and do a powerpoint presentation. The length of the group paper should be longer than 4,000 words and there is no upper limit. The powerpoint presentation should be 10 to 15 minutes. You need to submit your group paper at the end of the semester and the powerpoint presentation will be held in two weeks before the final week. There is no strict constraint on the topics for the group project. You can analyze countries’ behaviors under COVID-19, compare countries’ behaviors under different epidemics, analyze the consequences of different actions against epidemics, etc. However, your groups should talk with me about your groups’ topics. Further directions will be provided in class.

Evaluation and Comments on other groups’ projects (10%)

You will have an opportunity to evaluate and give comments on other groups’ projects. This is an individual assignment. The report should be longer than 1 page. You can point out what should be improved and elaborated. Moreover, you can say which one is great. After getting evaluation and comments, groups should provide response to the evaluations and comments. Further direction will be provided in class.

Class Attendance and Participation (10%)

Class attendance is extremely important. Especially, you should attend the Thursday class because there will be a group meeting and discussion on every Thursday. If you have reasons to absent the class, you should talk to me and your group members before the class. Participation is also important. I will post a weekly discussion topic on ICON and you will be required to post your opinions and thoughts on ICON. In addition, all individuals are assigned to offer presentation about the selected weeks. Further information will be provided in class.

Extra Credit Assignments (optional)

I will assign extra credit assignments.

Reading and Lecture Schedule

Week of August 24:

Introduction to the Class, The importance of Epidemics on Politics

First Group meetings on Thursday: Group members will be assigned. Time to know each other

Week of August 31

Perspectives to International Relations: Realism vs. Liberalism

Group Meetings on Thursday: Discuss about the topics and apply the perspectives to the possible topics

Week of September 7

Perspectives to International Relations: From Constructivism to Feminism

Group Meetings on Thursday: Write 1 paragraph about your group's paper including which perspective will be based on and the topics

Week of September 14

Black Death (1331-1353) in Europe and Presentation

Group Meetings on Thursday

Week of September 21

Yellow Fever (1793-1798) in America and Presentation

Group Meetings on Thursday

Week of September 28

Cholera Pandemic (1817-1824; 1863-1879; 1881-1896; 1899-1923) in Asia and Middle East and Presentation

Group Meetings on Thursday

Week of October 5

First Essay Exams

Week of October 12

Spanish Flue Pandemic (1918-1920) in Europe and Presentation

Group Meetings on Thursday

Week of October 19

Asian Flue (1957-1958) in Asia and Presentation

Group Meetings on Thursday

Week of October 26

HIV/AIDS (1960-present) in Middle East and Presentation

Group Meetings on Thursday

Week of November 2

SARS (2002-2004) in Asia and Presentation

Swine Flu (2009-2010) in the World.

Group Meetings on Thursday

Week of November 9

Second Essay Exams

Week of November 16

Ebola (2013-2016) in Western Africa and Presentation

Zika Epidemic (2015-2016) in the World and Presentation

Group Meetings on Thursday: submit your powerpoint slides to me and receive comments

Week of November 23: Thanksgiving. No Class

Week of November 30:

Group Presentation on Tuesday

Evaluations and Comments are due before the class on Thursday

Group Meetings on Thursday: write a response paper toward the evaluations and comments.

Discussion about how to revise your group's draft

Week of December 7:

Discussion about COVID-19 (2019-present) in the World

Group Response toward the evaluations and comments

Last Group Meetings on Thursday

Week of December 14: Final Week.

Submit group papers

Collaboration

CLAS would like all instructors to clarify collaboration in their classes. Collaboration on the two essay exams is not allowed since your essay grades are all evaluated individually. However, you can study together for the essay exams. For the group project, you should collaborate! I recommend you share your opinions, data, etc. You can use Zoom or other ways to have regular meetings. However, evaluation and comments on other group's project should be done by individually, because it depends on your own criteria. You can share your thoughts with your group members, but you should write evaluation and comments by yourself. Please ask me if anything is unclear.

ICON

There is an ICON site for this class. Please login to ICON to check your grades, post your

group works, upload your essays, and discuss about the topics for the week. The syllabus and announcements will also be posted on ICON.

Grades Used for the Class

The Following grades will be assigned at the end of the class (plus/minus policy):

A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F

A+ will not be assigned. An A (or 4.0) is the highest reported grade by the University to outside institutions and thus is the highest grade I will record.

Reading and Lecture Schedule:

UI and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Information for Undergraduates

Absences and Attendance

Students are responsible for attending class and for contributing to the learning environment of a course. Students are also responsible for knowing their course absence policies, which will vary by instructor. All absence policies, however, must uphold the UI policy related to student illness, mandatory religious obligations, including Holy Day obligations, military service obligations, unavoidable circumstances or University authorized activities. Students may use the CLAS absence form to aid communication with the instructor who will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused. The form is on ICON in the top banner under "Student Tools." More information is at <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>.

Academic Integrity

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through UI email. Visit this page for information: (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

Accommodations for Disabilities

UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. More information is at <https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>

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Administrative Home of the Course

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and related policies. Other colleges may have different policies. CLAS policies may be found here: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>

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Class Behavioral Expectations

Students are expected to comply with University policies regarding appropriate classroom behavior as outlined in the Code of Student Life. This includes the policies and procedures that all students have agreed to regarding the Steps Forward for Fall 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Particularly, all students are required to wear a face covering when in a

UI building, including a classroom. In addition, the density of seats in classrooms has been reduced; in some instances, this will allow 6 feet or more between students while other cases, it may be less. Regardless, wearing a face covering and maintaining as much distance as possible are vital to slowing the spread of COVID- 19. In the event that a student disrupts the classroom environment through their failure to comply with the reasonable directive of an instructor or the University, the instructor has the authority to ask that the student immediately leave the space for the remainder of the class period. Additionally, the instructor is asked to report the incident to the Office of Student Accountability for the possibility of additional follow-up. Students who need a temporary alternative learning arrangement related to COVID-19 expectations should contact Student Disability Services arrangements/; +1 319 335-1462) (<https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/fall-2020/covid-19-temporary-learning-arrangements/>).

Class Recordings: Privacy and Sharing

Some sessions of a course could be recorded or live-streamed. Such a recording or streaming will only be available to students registered for the course. These recordings are the intellectual property of the faculty, and they may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit **written** consent of the faculty member. Students may not share these sessions with those not in the class; likewise, students may not upload recordings to any other online environment. Doing so is a breach of the Code of Student Conduct and, in some cases, a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Communication and the Required Use of UI Email

Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to the UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2).

Complaints

Students with a complaint about an academic issue should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the Chair of the department or program offering the course; students may next bring the issue to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; see this page for more information: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

Final Examination Policies

The final exam schedule is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and location of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals with very few exceptions made (for labs, ESL and some world language courses, and off-cycle courses): <https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies>.

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom

The University of Iowa is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for people of all gender, sexual, racial, religious, and other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited in MyUI to optionally share the names and pronouns they would like their instructors and advisors to use to address them. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (<https://diversity.uiowa.edu/eod>; +1 319 335-0705 or diversity.uiowa.edu).

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, please see <https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>.