

AIDS: Epidemiology, Biology, and Culture
Case Western Reserve University
Anthropology

Janet W. McGrath
ANT 216
M,W,F: 1:30 p.m.- 2:20 p.m.
Spring 1989

Purpose of the Course:

This course presents an overview of AIDS as both a biological and socio-cultural phenomenon. The course will cover a variety of topics, including: what AIDS is, what causes it, who gets it and how to control it. Special emphasis will be given to exploring socio-cultural responses to the epidemic and to the long and short term consequences of the epidemic.

Method of Evaluation:

Midterm exam 30%
Final exam 40%
3 essays 10% each

Texts:

Required:

Confronting AIDS. Update 1988. Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, 1988.
What Science Knows About AIDS. *Scientific American* Publication, 1989 (note: this book is not available yet)

Optional:

Confronting AIDS: Directions for Public Health, Health Care, and Research. Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, 1986.
Shilts, Randy. *And The Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic*. Viking-Penguin Edition. 1988.

Additional readings are on reserve at Freiburger Library.

Below is a tentative schedule of topics to be covered over the semester. We may decide to alter this as we proceed, but the dates that exams are scheduled and essays are due will not change.

Jan. 9	Introduction
Jan. 11	Defining AIDS: The Terms of the Epidemic. Update 1988, ch. 1
Jan. 13	The Human Immune System
Jan. 16	Retroviruses
Jan. 18	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses. Update 1988, pp. 123-136
Jan. 20	ISSUES: Is HIV-1 Really the Cause of AIDS? ESSAY 1 DUE
Jan. 23	Transmission of HIV. Update 1988, pp. 33-46
Jan. 25	The Disease(s)
Jan. 27	ISSUES: How Is AIDS Really Transmitted
Jan. 30	Cofactors for Infection and Disease
Feb. 1	Origin and Evolution of the Virus
Feb. 3	ISSUES: Who Should Be Tested?
Feb. 6	Epidemiology of AIDS Worldwide. Update 1988, pp. 46-51
Feb. 8	Epidemiology of AIDS Worldwide
Feb. 10	ISSUES: Ethical Issues of AIDS. Update 1988, pp. 80-89
Feb. 13	High Risk Behaviors vs. High Risk Groups
Feb. 15	Treatment and Control Strategies. Update 1988, ch 4 and pp.136-158
Feb. 17	ISSUES: Condoms!
Feb. 20	Epidemiology of Pediatric AIDS
Feb. 22	Pediatric AIDS - Guest Speaker: Dr. Johanna Goldfarb
Feb. 24	ISSUES: Evaluating AIDS Education Materials
Feb. 27	REVIEW
Mar. 1	MIDTERM EXAM

Mar. 3 NO CLASS

Mar. 6,8,10 VACATION

Mar. 13 Antiviral Therapies - Guest Speaker: Dr. Jonathon Rosenthal

Mar. 15 Social and Cultural Responses to Epidemic Diseases

Mar. 17 ISSUES: Legal and Ethical Issues in AIDS Control - Guest speaker: Eileen Roberts

Mar. 20 AIDS and Minorities - Guest speaker: Dr. Jacob Gayle

Mar. 22 Local Responses to and Resources for AIDS - Guest speaker: Joseph Interrante

Mar. 24 AIDS in IV Drug Users - Guest speaker: Dr. Richard Stevens

Mar. 27 Popular Conceptions and Misconceptions About AIDS

Mar. 29 AIDS Education

Mar. 31 ISSUES: Has the Media Done a Good Job Reporting on AIDS?
ESSAY 2 DUE

Apr. 3 Economic Costs of AIDS

Apr. 5 Frontline: Who Pays for AIDS?

Apr. 7 NO CLASS

Apr. 10 The Politics of AIDS

Apr. 12 The Politics of AIDS Research

Apr. 14 ISSUES: What Is or Should a Government's Responsibility Be?
Update 1988, ch. 7,8

Apr. 17 Demographic Consequences of AIDS. Update 1988, p. 52

Apr. 19 AIDS and Religion

Apr. 21 ISSUES: Is AIDS a Moral Issue?

Apr. 24 AIDS in the Year 2000. Update 1988, App. A

Apr. 26 REVIEW
ESSAY 3 DUE

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1989 - 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Assignments and required reading (in addition to Update):

Week 1

Essay 1: How the AIDS epidemic has affected me personally. 3-5 pages. Due January 20, 1989

The AIDS epidemic, more than any other in recent history, has provoked profoundly personal responses. Some of you may have lost friends or family to AIDS; others may be planning a career in medicine and may be concerned about the impact of AIDS on your career; some of you may be concerned about your current or future sex life. In this short essay, please describe how the AIDS epidemic has affected you personally. Use this assignment to examine how you feel about AIDS and what is happening as a result of the epidemic. Anything you write will remain confidential.

Week 2

Gallo, R.C. "The First Human Retrovirus." *Scientific American* 255:88-98, 1986.

Gallo, R.C. "The AIDS Virus." *Scientific American* 256:46-56, 1987.

"A Rebel Without a Cause for AIDS." *Science* 239:617-622, March 25, 1988.

"Duesberg Gets His Day in Court." *Science* 240:279, April 15, 1988.

Duesberg, P. "HIV is not the Cause of AIDS." *Science* 241:514, July 29, 1988.

Blattner W., R.C. Gallo, and H.M. Temin. "HIV Causes AIDS." *Science* 241:515, July 29, 1988.

The Cause of AIDS (Letters). *Science* 242:997-998, November 18, 1988.

Week 3

Lifson, A.R. "Do Alternative Models for Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Exist?" *Journal of the American Medical Association* 259:1353-1356, 1988.

Week 4

Essex, M. and P.S. Kanki. "The Origins of the AIDS Virus." *Scientific American* 259:64-71, October 1988.

Heyward, H.L. and J.W. Curran. "The Epidemiology of AIDS in the U.S." *Scientific American* 259:72-81, October 1988.

Week 5

Mann, J.M. et al. "The International Epidemiology of AIDS." *Scientific American* 259:82-89, October 1988.

Walters, L. "Ethical Issues in the Prevention and Treatment of AIDS." *Science* 239:597-603, 1988.

Week 6

"Condoms for Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 37:133-137.

Week 7

"Continuing Jeopardy: Children and AIDS." A Staff Report of the Select Committee on Children, Youth and

Essay 2: Review of a popular (i.e. nonscientific) article about HIV and/or AIDS. 3 - 5 pages. Due March 31, 1989

The purpose of this assignment is for you to critically evaluate a popular article about HIV/AIDS. A critical evaluation involves consideration of the goals of the article, the content, and the quality of the presentation. For this assignment, you will select an article (or two if they are very short) in the popular press about HIV and/or AIDS. This article can be in any non-scientific publication such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Reader's Digest*, *People Magazine*, *Glamour*, *Ms*, *Popular Mechanics*, or whatever. Newsweeklies such as *Time* and *Newsweek* may be included only if the article is not part of the science/medical columns. In a short essay, briefly (in a few sentences) summarize the article, then discuss the following:

- 1) What is the purpose of the article (e.g. to educate, to entertain, to frighten)?
- 2) At what audience is the article targeted?
- 3) Are the facts presented about HIV/AIDS accurate?
- 4) What emotional response does the article elicit or attempt to elicit?
- 5) Does this response help or hinder the purpose of the article?
- 6) Does the article achieve its purpose? If so, why and how? If not, why?
What does the article achieve in your opinion?

Week 10

Brandt, A.M. "The Syphilis Epidemic and Its Relation to AIDS." *Science* 239:375-380, 1988.
Fineberg, H. "The Social Dimensions of AIDS." *Scientific American* 259:128-134, October 1988.
Dickens, B.M. "Legal Rights and Duties in the AIDS Epidemic." *Science* 239:580-586, 1988.

Week 11

Rogers, M.F. and W.W. Williams. "AIDS in Blacks and Hispanics: Implications and Prevention." *Issues in Science and Technology* (Spring 1987):88-94.
Hopkins, D.R. "AIDS in Minority Populations in the United States." *Public Health Reports* 102:677-681, 1987.

Week 12

Schoepf, B.G. et al. "AIDS in Society in Central Africa: A View from Zaire." In *AIDS in Africa: The Social and Political Impact*. N. Miller and R.C. Rockwell, eds. *Studies in African Health and Medicine* 10:211-235. The Edwin Mellin Press, 1988.
Risse, G.B. "Epidemics and History: Ecological Perspectives and Social Responses." In *AIDS: The Burdens of History*, pp. 33-36. E. Fee and D.M. Fox, eds. Berkeley: UC Press, 1988.

Seven newspaper articles available on reserve

Read either:

- 1) Leishman, K. "Heterosexuals and AIDS." *The Atlantic Monthly* (February 1987): 39-57.
OR
- 2) "Sex in the age of AIDS." *Newsweek* (March 14, 1988):42-52.
AND
- 3) "AIDS and the Single Woman." *People* (March 15, 1988):102-112.

Week 13

Bloom, D.E. and G. Carliner. "The Economic Impact of AIDS in the United States." *Science* 239:604-610, 1988.

Essay 3: Funding Priorities for HIV and AIDS related research and services
3-5 pages. Due April 26, 1989

Your final essay for this semester is an opportunity for you to delineate what you believe should be the priorities for funding of HIV and AIDS related research and services. We have covered many issues concerning AIDS this semester, and you should have a sense of the areas in which you believe more work should be done. However, as we all know, money is limited and good research and services programs must compete for dollars. In order to decide how best to distribute those dollars, we must have a sense of priorities. What would you designate as the priorities in both research and services. Why? Give a thoughtful discussion of why you would focus on certain research and services and not others.

Week 14

Shilts, R. "In Cold Blood." *Mother Jones*, November 1987. (excerpted from *And the Band Played On*.
Waite, G. "The Politics of Disease: The AIDS Virus in Africa." In *AIDS in Africa: The Social and Political Impact*. N. Miller and R.C. Rockwell, eds. *Studies in African Health and Medicine* 10:145-164. The Edwin Mellin Press, 1988.

Week 15

New Model for AIDS in the Third World

Week 16

Schram, N. "AIDS: 1991." *The Plain Dealer*, Sunday, November 16, 1986.