

Welcome to HSCI 665: Infectious Diseases

HSCI 665 0.5 units

Is not disease the rule of existence? There is not a lily pad floating on the water that has not been riddled by insects almost every shrub and tree has its gall, often times esteemed its chief ornament and hardly to be distinguished from the fruit. If misery loves company, misery has company enough.

Henry David Thoreau, 1851



How do you feel when you hear Ebola, AIDS, anthrax, *E. coli* O157? Probably much like your grandparents when they heard cholera, diphtheria, polio, and typhoid fever. This class will address the **what** (are infectious agents), the **why** (we should know about infectious diseases), and the **where** (infectious diseases occur), and the **how** (epidemiology) infectious diseases are studied. We will explore the historical development and impact of infectious diseases on human history and the efforts to manage and prevent these diseases through preventative medicine. Humans have learned to decrease the occurrence and mortality of many infectious diseases. Will we be able to control them all? We will also look at the role of humans in causing the emergence of infectious diseases.



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Grading:

Credit/no credit. All in-class assignments must be completed to earn credit

Letter grade. All in-class assignments + answers to questions similar to those on p. 3 must be completed and turned in.

88-100%	A
75-87%	B
60-74%	C
45-59%	D
<45%	F

The Players:	Beneficial Activity	Harmful Activity
Algae		
Bacteria		
Fungi		
Helminths		
Prions		
Protozoa		
Viruses		

From the Public Health Department*

Song for All Seasons**

We're dreaming of disease control
 Just like the way we used to know...
 When a shot of penicillin killed the worst
 microbial villain,
 And kids lined up for vaccines row by row...
 When V.D. contacts weren't so hard to find,
 When health care could be bought for lower
 fees;
 And when dengue, Reye's, AIDS, Legionnaires'
 and Lassa, too
 Were unknown, or only happened overseas.
 We fought *Streptococcus* and typhoid fever,
 Ringworm, *Shigella*, and T.B.
 By spraying for flies an' by milk pasteurizin',
 By washing hands and quarantine decree!

But thoses times we're dreaming of seem gone
 forever,
 And life isn't simple anymore
 Germs are drug-resistant, parents not as
 insistent
 That children get their vaccines like before
 People traveling everywhere, germs in water,
 food and air,
 Legal suits and legislation, Human Rights,
 investigations
 All confront the epidemiologist!
 We must meet new challenges we never had
 before,
 And still learn from the lessons of the past.
 There's a new generation in this growing nation,
 And the times are changing very fast!
 Yes, there's no use dreaming of the times gone
 by.
 We must learn how to deal with a new day.
 We can find the solution to disease and
 pollution:
 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION is the way!

**To the tune of I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
 ☺

Get Rid of the Red-Nosed Reign,

Dear

Track down each red-nosed sniffler,
 With throat swabs and serology.
 Hunt for each typhoid carrier,
 Or donor with hepatitis B.
 There could be an epidemic, No one can really
 say...
 But to have a healthy tomorrow,
 We'd better get busy today!

Don't forget measles and polio,
 Tetanus, diphtheria too!
 V.D. and *Salmonella*, rabies, T.B. and "Q",
 Smallpox may now be conquered,
 But there's always something new:
 Like Lassa, or germs nosocomial,
 Marburg, or Herpes virus 2!
 Many years ago, they say,
 Disease was in the air.
 Plagues and poxes, fevers, fluxes,
 Coughing, coffins everywhere:
 Now that we can prevent them,
 Or many of them anyway,
 Let's PUT OUR BEST EFFORT TO BUILDING A
 BRIGHTER TOMORROW TODAY

☺

* From *California Morbidity*

