

Syllabus

AIDS and Health Disparities

Course Description:

The main goal of this course is to encourage and engage science-oriented students in critical thinking concerning one of the most important issues affecting our society. Understanding the deadly outbreak of the AIDS disease and its causative agent, the HIV virus, is of immediate importance for survival in this new century. The class will focus on the basic biology of the disease and its societal impacts. In addition, there are several diseases that affect specific sections of society and cause Health Disparities. We will discuss the importance of genetic and environmental factors that lead to these disparities. Apart from these issues, students will learn how to access and process information from the library and the internet. Students will also gain valuable study and presentation skills along with time management skills and general survival strategies.

The main objectives of this course are the following:

- (1) To enhance the student's academic and learning skills
- (2) To engage students in critical thinking/problem-solving activities
- (3) To improve the student's oral, written, and electronic communication skills

In addition to the objectives listed below, the following Goals will be attempted and implemented:

Goal 1. Students will begin to understand their roles, opportunities, and responsibilities that impact their success within the context of the university.

Goal 2. Students will learn about and practice essential academic skills in order to strengthen performance in the university setting.

Goal 3. Students will begin to build a network of faculty, staff, and peers in order to create a supportive and positive learning experience/environment.

Goal 4. Students will begin to assess and better understand their own interests, abilities, and values in order to more efficiently pursue their academic, career, and life goals.

Goal 5. Students will learn how to find research articles online and present results via PowerPoint.

Lecture Schedule: **Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-1:20 PM**
Hudspeth Hall, Room 300

Office Hours: **Biosciences 4.144 –By email appointment**

Faculty: **Renato J, Aguilera, Ph.D.***
Room 4.144 Biosci. Res. Bldg; ext. 6802
e-mail: raguilera@utep.edu

Recommended Textbook:

AIDS Science and Society (5th, 6th or 7th Edition). Fan, Conner, and Villareal. Jones and Bartlett publishers. Please note that there is little change between editions and the book is too expensive to buy new.

Grading Policy:

There will be one in class exam that will be based on the lecture portion of the class and will count for 50% of the grade. Final student oral PowerPoint presentation will count for 40% of the grade. Attendance will account for the remaining 10% of the grade. Students will be dropped from the class after the 3rd unexcused absence. Excused absences will require proof of illness (from doctor or hospital) or other official notice (death certificate, etc).

Additional Information on Academic Dishonesty/Disabilities (Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs and Entering Student Program:

Student Conduct: Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents [Rules and Regulations](#), which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>.

Scholastic Dishonesty: It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an "F" or zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty in lieu of normally charging the student through the Dean of Students. Similarly, students are prohibited from proposing and/or entering into an arrangement with a faculty member to receive a grade of "F" or any reduced grade in lieu of being charged with scholastic dishonesty. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism: "Plagiarism" means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.

Students with Disabilities Policy: [from Disabled Student Services Office]

If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation you should contact Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

You will be receiving an invitation in your UTEP email to complete a Student Feedback Survey online. This is a required assignment. **All 1301 students are expected complete this online survey**

COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission **wear face masks when indoors** in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

**1301 AIDS and Other Health Disparities
Class Schedule (subject to change)**

DATE	LECTURE	TOPIC	READING
Tuesday August 24	1	HIV and AIDS	Chapter 1-2
Thursday August 26	2	Infectious Diseases and the History of Epidemics	Chapter 2
Tuesday August 31	3	What are Health Disparities?	
Thursday September 2	4	Modern Biology Tutorial	
Tuesday September 7	5	What is the Immune System?	Chapter 3
Thursday September 9	6	The Immune System (part 2)	Chapter 3
Tuesday September 14	7	Virology –Part I	Chapter 4
Thursday September 16	8	Virology –Part II	Chapter 4
Tuesday September 21	9	Clinical Manifestations of AIDS I	Chapter 5
Thursday September 23	10	Health Disparities and its Effects on Minorities	Not in exam
Tuesday September 28	11	In Class Exam #1	
Thursday September 30	12	How to search for articles and download papers and figures	
Tuesday October 5	13	Clinical Manifestations of AIDS II Antiviral Therapy	Chapter 5
Thursday October 7	14	Epidemiology and AIDS and Health Disparities	Chapter 6
Tuesday October 12	15	HIV Transmissions and Risk Factors	Chapter 7
Thursday October 14	16	Individual Assessment of HIV Risks	Chapter 8

Tuesday October 19	17	Final Note of Optimism	Chapters 9-12
Thursday October 21	18	Student Presentations	
Tuesday October 26	19	Student Presentations	
Thursday October 28	20	Student Presentations	
Tuesday November 2	21	Student Presentations	
Thursday November 4	22	Student Presentations	
Tuesday November 9	23	Student Presentations	
Thursday November 11	24	Student Presentations	
Tuesday November 16	25	Student Presentations	
Thursday November 18	26	Student Presentations	
Tuesday November 23	27	Student Presentations	
Thursday November 25		Thanksgiving	
Tuesday November 30	28	Student Presentations	
Thursday December 2	29	FINAL	