Plagues and the People of Hamilton
A Social Sciences Inquiry Course

Time         Saturdays, September 12 to December 12, 2015, 11 am - 3 pm, including lunch
Location     Mills Library, Wong e-classroom, McMaster University
Professor    Dr. Ann Herring
Email        herring@mcmaster.ca
Phone        905-525-9140, ext. 23915
Coordinator  Patrick Byrne
Email        byrnep@mcmaster.ca
Phone        905-525-9140, ext. 24066

Course Description
This course introduces you to the hidden history of epidemics in Hamilton. We will consider worldwide epidemics in the 19th and 20th centuries and examine how the citizens of the city made sense of and responded to these distressing experiences. You will

- learn about and experience places in Hamilton marked by epidemics
- see the city in a new way
- develop a framework for thinking about epidemics today
- strengthen your reading and research skills
- increase your skills in interpreting and evaluating works of history, art, and culture

The course theme, “Plagues and the People of Hamilton”, examines how the people of Hamilton coped with major epidemics in the past. Understanding Hamilton’s past will give us background for thinking about current and future epidemics.
We will also look at histories of the city that provide perspective on
- why Hamilton was established in the first place
- what some of its opportunities and challenges have been
- how the city continues to change

Project
In addition to exploring the ways in which epidemics affected the people of
Hamilton, you will have the opportunity to develop a project that gives voice to
your new way of seeing the city and its people. We will work on the projects in
class time, after our lunch break. You are free to develop whatever project
captures your imagination. The Student Support Team will help you!

Class Format
The class meets every Saturday for twelve weeks (September 12 – December 5,
2015) from 11 am to 3 pm. On Saturday, December 12 a graduation ceremony
and celebration will be held, presided over by Patrick Deane, President of
McMaster University.

11:00 am to 12:30 Lecture and discussions with the professor, Ann Herring.
12:30 to 1:30 Lunch
1:30 to 3:00 pm Workshop led by the Student Support Team.

There are two parts to the course. During the first half of each class (lecture and
discussion), Ann Herring will provide background on the week’s topic. During
the second half of each class (workshop), the Student Support Team will lead
small group discussions and help you work on your projects. They are a terrific
team of resourceful people who are eager to help. Occasionally, we will have
guest experts visit the class or we will take field trips to places of significance to
the course, such as to the Hamilton Steam Museum.
**Instructor and Support Team**

*Instructor*

Ann Herring is Professor of Anthropology at McMaster University and has been teaching here for 26 years. Her research and teaching center on historic epidemics. She is responsible for the overall structure and delivery of the course. Ann organizes the curriculum, visiting speakers, fieldtrips, and assigned readings, and she responds to the projects. She works in close collaboration with Patrick Byrne and the Student Support Team.

*Coordinator*

Patrick Byrne is Coordinator for the Discovery Program and a PhD candidate in English and Cultural Studies. He works closely with the Student Support Team and takes care of course logistics. Patrick is the person to speak with if you need to miss a class and want to make up the work. He will be available each week outside of class by phone and email and is always happy to help you with any questions or concerns you may have.

*Student Support Team*

This year’s Student Support Team members are Danielle Canagasuriam, Eamon Colvin, Tian Lei, Stephanie Bertolo, and Tishya Parikh. They are exceptional students selected to act as teaching assistants for the Discovery Program. They will run small group discussions, help you with your projects during the workshop sessions, and generally support your learning throughout the course. You can reach them via their McMaster emails:

**Danielle Canagasuriam** canagd2@mcmaster.ca  
**Eamon Colvin** colvine@mcmaster.ca  
**Tian Lei** leit3@mcmaster.ca  
**Stephanie Bertolo** bertolsm@mcmaster.ca  
**Tishya Parikh** parikhtm@mcmaster.ca
Important Notes

We will support you

We want you to enjoy the course and grow through your experience with each other and the subject matter we are studying. Ann, Patrick, Tishya, Danielle, Eamon, Tian, and Stephanie are committed to ensuring that you are supported and encouraged on your way to success in the course. Tell us how we can help you!

Feedback on Projects

You will not be assigned a grade for this course, but Ann Herring will provide written comments on your final projects once they have been completed.

Working with and respecting one another

Students, professor, coordinator, and the Student Support Team will all treat one another with courtesy. Everyone’s voice is important and is to be respected. Behaviour that interrupts, impedes, or belittles others will not be allowed. If discourteous or disturbing incidents occur, you may be asked to stop attending the course.

Attendance policy

The course will succeed only if you are committed to attending all classes. A good learning environment depends on students and teachers knowing each other and being able to rely on each other to be prepared for class and ready to contribute to discussions. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. If you miss a class, you will be expected to make up the work. If you miss more than 2 classes and have not contacted Patrick to explain why you missed the classes, you may be asked to stop attending the course.
Plagues and the People of Hamilton 2015
Class Schedule
11am-3pm, Wong e-classroom, Mills Library

This schedule is a guide for our class activities and assigned readings. Should we need more time on a given subject, we will be flexible in order to give the class enough time to discuss the material.

Homework for this course will take about an hour a day, though sometimes it may take longer. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings each week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Main Themes and special notes</th>
<th>Video/Visitor/Visits</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Reading and/or homework due today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Introductions; What is a Plague?</td>
<td></td>
<td>general discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Plagues in History</td>
<td>Video: <em>The People and the Bay</em></td>
<td>Discussion of reading and video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>The Hot Plague: Cholera</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion: cholera in Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>The Hot Plague in Hamilton</td>
<td>Site visit: Hamilton Steam Museum.</td>
<td>cholera in Hamilton SST Workshop: photovoice: discussion and practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Hamilton’s Archives</td>
<td>Site visit: Hamilton Public Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guide: Karen Milligan, Manager,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Local History &amp; Archives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Main Themes and special notes</td>
<td>Video/Visitor/Visits</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Reading and/or homework due today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Oct 24</td>
<td>Archives and Making History</td>
<td><strong>Visitors:</strong> Profs. Nancy Bouchier and Ken Cruikshank, History Department</td>
<td>Discussion: Steam Museum visit, sharing photos, captions and reflections</td>
<td>Bring 1 photo from the Steam Museum visit with a <em>caption</em> and <em>1-paragraph</em> reflection on what the photo means to you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8. Oct 31 | Monuments and their Place in Hamilton’s History   | **Site Visit:** Dundurn Castle  
**Bring a camera** | Discussion:  Steam Museum visit, sharing photos, captions and reflections  
Discussion:  project ideas | Freeman, pages 31-34 (review) |
| 9. Nov 7  | The Forgotten Plague: 1918 Influenza Pandemic     | **Visitor:** Dr. Kate Patterson, SUSTARC  
**Bring a camera** | Discussion:  Dundurn Castle visit, sharing photos, captions and reflections  
Discussion:  project ideas | Bring 1 photo from the Dundurn Castle visit with a *caption* and *1-paragraph* reflection on what the photo means to you. |
| 10. Nov 14 | The Forgotten Plague in Hamilton                 | **Visitor:** Dr. Kate Patterson, SUSTARC  
**Bring a camera** | Discussion:  reading  
Workshop:  developing projects | *Hamilton: A People’s History*, chapter 6 or any chapter from *Anatomy of a Pandemic*  
[http://catalogue.mcmaster.ca/catalogue/Record/2554219](http://catalogue.mcmaster.ca/catalogue/Record/2554219) |
| 11. Nov 21 | The White Plague: Tuberculosis                   |                                                  | Discussion:  reading  
Workshop:  developing projects | Any chapter from *Before ‘The San’,* but 13 & 14 are recommended  
[http://catalogue.mcmaster.ca/catalogue/Record/2554217](http://catalogue.mcmaster.ca/catalogue/Record/2554217) |
| 12. Nov 28 | The White Plague in Hamilton                     | **Visitor:** Prof. Emily Cowall:  The Inuit Photographic Project | Workshop:  finishing projects |  |
| 13. Dec 5 | Presentations of projects                        |                                                  |                                                  |  |
| 14. Dec 12 | **Graduation Ceremony** with President Patrick Deane.  
Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall 111. |                                                  |                                                  |  |