

**MOLLOY UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE EDUCATION**

EDU 5900.66 – The Evolution of Disease and Medicine

- August 4th – August 7th
- Asynchronous Online

Instructor:

Paul Zaratin

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Course Description:

In *The Evolution of Disease and Medicine*, students will explore the dynamic relationship between human health, disease, and medical practices from ancient civilizations to the modern era. The course will examine how infectious diseases, chronic conditions, and public health challenges have influenced human history and shaped the progression of medical science. Key topics will include the origins and spread of major diseases, the development of medical knowledge, treatment innovations, and the ongoing challenges posed by emerging diseases and global health crises. Through case studies, readings, and discussions, students will gain an understanding of how societal, cultural, and technological factors have influenced the practice of medicine and our approach to disease prevention and treatment. The course will also address the ethical, political, and economic dimensions of healthcare across different time periods and regions. Although tailored for middle and high school educators, this course is open to teachers of all grade levels, as many lessons can be adapted for K-12 classrooms. This course is aligned with NGSS: MS-LS1.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Explore the origins and spread of major infectious diseases throughout history.
2. Analyze the evolution of medical knowledge and treatment practices over time.
3. Understand the role of medical innovations in shaping healthcare.
4. Examine the impact of societal, cultural, and technological factors on medical practices.
5. Identify the ethical, political, and economic dimensions of healthcare in historical and modern contexts.
6. Investigate the ongoing challenges posed by emerging diseases and global health crises.
7. Integrate lessons and activities on disease history and medical evolution for K-12 classrooms.
8. Create a lesson plan or activity that promotes understanding of the evolution of disease and medicine.

Course Grading:

Discussion #1: Introduction to the Evolution of Disease and Medicine (5 pts)

Module #1: Origins and Spread of Major Diseases (10 pts)

Module #2: The Development of Medical Knowledge and Practices (10 pts)

Module #3: Medical Innovations and Technologies (10 pts)

Discussion #2: Impact of Societal and Cultural Factors on Medicine (5 pts)

Module #4: The Ethical, Political, and Economic Dimensions of Healthcare (10 pts)

Module #5: Global Health Crises: Past and Present (10 pts)

Module #6: Emerging Diseases and the Future of Medicine (10 pts)

Module #7: Adapting Lessons for K-12 Classrooms (10 pts)

Module #8: Creating a Classroom Activity on Disease and Medicine (20 pts)