

**BIOLOGY 4110**  
**SECTION 01**  
**UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR**

**1 CREDIT HOURS**

**SPRING 2018**

**LECTURE M 4:00 – 4:50 PM, LEE DRAIN BLD, RM 144, CRN 22410**

**Course Instructor:** Aaron Lynne, Ph.D.  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Office in LDB 125C, phone 294-1544, email aml027@shsu.edu  
Office Hours are MWF 10:00 – 11:00 or by appointment (best)  
Email is the surest way to reach me to set an appointment

**Course Description:** This course is designed to be a discussion of current literature in the field of biology. This course is very open ended and varies by instructor. For this course, we will be reading two books with a medical/microbiological basis that also cover hot topics in the field of biology. One book will look at twelve diseases and their impact on human history. The second book will examine the importance of the human microbiome. This course is a discussion based course and student participation is mandatory.

**Course objectives:**

1. Examine the science behind complementary and alternative medicine
2. Understand the current debate about vaccines and autism
3. Discuss the controversy of "AIDS denialism"

**Required Materials**

Two books will be required for this course. 1. Twelve Diseases that Changed the World by Irwin W. Sherman. 2. I Contain Multitudes by Ed Yong. The first book is currently available at the campus bookstore. However, you may purchase these in what ever form (paperback, E-reader, etc) that you like.

**Grading**

Your grade will be based on participation in the weekly discussion and personal reflections on the assigned readings. Each week, you will be assigned chapters from the books. Prior to each class, you will be required to write a short reflection of the chapters. This is not meant just to be a summary of the chapters but also your own personal reflections of the materials. These reflections will be uploaded to BlackBoard through Turnitin and are due before class. Each reflection will be worth 10 points. Then we will have a discussion on the chapters during class. Participation for each week's discussion will be worth 10 points. No grades are dropped or curved. There are no make up assignments or extra credit. To receive your weekly points you must upload your reflection before class **AND** participate in the discussion. Failure to participate

will result in no points. Therefore, it is very important that you read the required materials before class and come ready to discuss the topics.

**Grading:**

12 Assignments	10 pts each	120 pts
12 Discussions	10 pts each	120 pts
Total		240 pts

**Grade breakdown**

100 – 90%	A
89.9 – 80%	B
79.9 – 70%	C
69.9% - 60%	D
59.9% - 0%	F

For official University guidelines and policies related to students with disabilities, academic dishonesty, visitors in the classroom, and religious holidays, please refer to the SHSU Student Guidelines Handbook (available from the Dean of Students)

Academic dishonesty of any kind (especially plagiarism) will not be tolerated and will be handled according to the SHSU Student Guidelines Handbook.

**Course Calendar:**

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Week 1: January 22

Introduction and go over syllabus

Week 2: January 29

12 Diseases: Chapters 1-2

Week 3: February 5

12 Diseases: Chapters 3-4

Week 4: February 12

12 Diseases: Chapters 5-6

Week 5: February 19

12 Diseases: Chapters 7-8

Week 6: February 26

12 Diseases: Chapters 9-10

Week 7: March 5

12 Diseases: Chapters 11-epilogue

Week 8: March 12

Spring Break

Week 9: March 19

I Contain Multitudes: Ch. 1-2

Week 10: March 26

I Contain Multitudes: Ch. 3-4

Week 11: April 2

I Contain Multitudes: Ch. 5-6

Week 12: April 9

I Contain Multitudes: Ch. 7-8

Week 13: April 16

I Contain Multitudes: Ch. 9-10

Week 14: April 23

Final Discussion

Week 15: April 30

No class.