Bill’s Bugs, or everything you ever wanted to know about notorious infections!

Format:

This class will be led by Bill Petri who is a physician, professor in Infectious Diseases and a Hereford College Fellow. Perspectives will include the clinical, microbiological, epidemiologic and historical aspects of infectious diseases. The course will be centered on active discussion about several of the most deadly infections. For each class part of the teaching will be by one of the students, which will require a meeting with Dr. Petri in advance for preparation and also require reading from one of the books on the list or other sources.

Timing:

The class will meet over dinner at Runk on Mondays from 6:30-7:30 PM

Syllabus (topics for discussion):

The Plague and why this is the only infection known as “The”

Yellow Fever in Philadelphia and Cuba (including a special visit to the historical collections of the UVa Health Sciences Library)

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Howard Ricketts and the Flat Head Indians

Cholera in London and Port-au-Prince

HIV virology and sociology

Malaria and co-evolution of parasite and humans

Tuberculosis and literature

Amebiasis and the fall of the Soviet Union

Trichinosis, Dresden and worms that travel to the brain

Kuru, Papua-New Guinea and Fatal Familial Insomnia

Mononucleosis, Burkitt’s lymphoma and Post-transplant Lymphoma

SARS-CoV-2

Reading List (optional):

Guns Germs and Steel by Jared Diamond

The Ghost Map by Steven Johnson

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Fever: How Malaria has Ruled Humankind for 500,000 Years by Sonia Shah

And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic by Randy Shilt