

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

Format:

This class is a small seminar-style class (not more than 8 students) that will be led by Bill Petri who is a Hereford College Fellow and infectious diseases specialist for the UVA Medical Center. Each evening we will informally discuss a different infectious disease, selected by the students. Dr. Petri will lead the teaching each week, and each student will be assigned a different aspect of the infection to discuss. This is usually a question with a web link to relevant information that should not take more than a few minutes to digest. Perspectives will include the clinical, microbiological, epidemiologic and historical aspects of infectious diseases.

Timing:

The class will meet in the Vaughan House classroom on Mondays from 7 – 8 PM

Syllabus (examples of topics selected by past classes to discuss):

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 (totally 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