**BIOL 685: Emerging Infectious Diseases**

**Instructor:** Dr. Ryan Blower Ph.D.

**Email: rblower@gmu.edu**

**Phone:** 810-701-2698

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Office:** Zoom

**Learning objectives:**

* Understand the replication strategy and basic molecular biology for all organisms discussed.
* Understand the pathogenesis of infectious disease in terms of immune response, modulation of host factors, and systemic alterations.
* Understand strategies for the treatment of infectious diseases.
* Learn how to comprehend, analyze and efficiently communicate research findings through PubMed article presentations and group discussions.

**Format:**

* This class will be delivered via remote asynchronous learning. I will post all materials for the week on Monday and you will have the week to watch the main lecture, student presentations, and complete any assignments at a time that is convenient for you.

**Grading:**

* **Oral presentations (30%)**

Students will be assigned a research topic that will include research papers from the literature and will present PowerPoint presentations explaining the papers. The presentation should focus on the aspects of molecular biology, epidemiology, and treatment.

* **Take home mid-term (30%)**

The exam will consist of essay questions that should be answered in 2-3 pages per question. At least 5 PubMed references are expected per answer. **Do not work in groups or get information from others.** All responses should be sent as one complete document within a week of the date given.

* **Take home final (30%)**

The exam will consist of essay questions that should be answered in 2-3 pages per question. Questions should be answered thoroughly, but concisely At least 5 PubMed references are expected per answer. **Do not work in groups or get information from others.** All responses should be sent as one complete document within a week of the date given.

* **Participation (10%)**

You are expected to participate in videos, blogs, and discussions as assigned throughout the semester. You are expected to read any assigned literature for each class so that you can discuss the papers and ask questions on each student presentation.

* **Late Work Policy**

Late work will only be accepted if it has been **prearranged** and this is up to the professor’s discretion. Exceptions will be made for emergency situations. g

**Class Schedule**



## Disability Statement

 If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please email me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

## Honor Code Statement

* George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited
* All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.  See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

## Enrollment Statement

* Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class.
* Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes.

o Last Day to Add: August 31st

o Last Day to Drop: September 8th - no tuition penalty

o Last Day to Drop: September 15th- 50% tuition refund

o Self-Withdrawal: September 16th – 28th no tuition refunded

* After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.
* Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. (Sept 29th to Oct 28th)
* See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.