*Infectious Diseases – Final Project Fall 2011*

Over the course of this semester, we have touched on many of the diverse topics involved in the study of infectious disease. However, there is no way to cover everything, so your final project is designed to allow you to research one area that you found interesting and would like to look into further that we simply did not have time to go over in class. Your final project will be in the form of a research paper and abstract (short) presentation to be completed individually. In your paper you must apply some science information from class – either the biology of the disease organisms, epidemiological principles, lab work or immunology: The purpose is to show that you now have a deeper understanding of infectious disease and can apply it to other aspects of its study.

The following is a list of possible topics to help get you started. Guidelines for your papers and for the presentation will follow.

You may wish to study infectious disease as it relates to:

1. **A country** – Haiti for example. Or another developing country which is attempting to deal with ID.
2. **A person** – Paul Farmer, for example, whose work is described in Tracy Kidder’s biography Mountains Beyond Mountains. Louis Pasteur is another possibility in this category.
3. **A disease –** Choose a disease we have not studied such as Schistosomiasis, malaria, or another in the CDC’s top ten list.
4. **A book –** examples include: The Hot Zone or Demon in the Freezer – true accounts.
5. **Nocosomial Infections** – hospital acquired infections
6. **Zoonoses** – Animal Hosts/Animal vectors
7. **Global Warming**
8. **Biological Warfare**
9. **DNA Technology and/or Gene Patenting**
10. **Travel**
11. **Evolution –** the coevolution of ID to their hosts. Diseases specific to certain species or families of organisms.
12. **History** - how did the advent of agriculture and domestication of animals change the face of ID.

 - 1918 flu, Bubonic plague, …

1. **Illegal or legal trafficking in exotic animals**
2. **Public health for the 2000’s**

Example: Networking and use of data to track world wide outbreaks

1. **Health organizations such as WHO, NIH, CDC vs NGO’s. What are they and what do they do?**
2. **The economics of fighting ID’s.**

You may consider 3rd world countries and how they pay for health care OR pharmaceutical companies and the economics of vaccine or antibiotic development.

1. **Your own idea???**

 Please make your choice by Thursday. I will expect a brief outline by Sat which will be an in class work day. You will be expected to research your topic and elaborate on at least 3 aspects of it in terms of ID. Project will be worth 15% of your semester grade.

General grading rubric:

100 points:

10 - Intro/Conclusion

20 – discussion/explanation 1

20 - discussion/explanation 2

20 - discussion/explanation 3

10 – Thoughtful analyses on your part of the topic. Show me that you have thought about this issue or topic and present your considered opinion or conclusions. Use what you have learned!

5 – Organization and written presentation

5 – References – MLA format – no web addresses!

10 – Presentation to class of SHORT abstract summarizing what you studied and highlighting the major points. Full points for inclusion of short (no more than 4 slides) PowerPoint - slides showing visuals and only major ideas/terms – no sentences!! (5 minutes plus questions).