Course Description: Malaria. Avian Influenza. Asthma. The emergence and spread of such diseases has drawn recent attention to the ways in which human and wildlife health problems are intimately related to environmental change. While disease ecology has become a focus of interdisciplinary exchange across the fields of medicine, public health, wildlife and veterinary medicine, conservation biology, ecology, geography, sociology, environmental history, and other disciplines, ecological approaches to the understanding of health and disease have a long history. In this seminar we will explore that history and consider how such past efforts at integrating ecology and health can inform current research questions, directions, and policy affecting current and future environmental health challenges. The seminar will dovetail with the first EcoHealth ONE conference to be held in Madison in the fall of 2006 that will provide a unique forum to (1) advance emerging, highly interdisciplinary scientific work in this arena, (2) promote the interaction of a diverse audience concerned with sustainable health and environment, and (3) consider how to address challenges in an effective and unified way.

Required Readings:

The following required books are available at the University Bookstore:


A reading packet is also available in the Department of History of Science, 7143 Social Science Building for purchase. The articles are also on reserve at Helen C. White College Library.

**Course Requirements:**

**Discussion (25%):** This seminar is primarily designed as a reading/discussion seminar. This means that you are responsible for coming to class having read and reflected on the material and prepared to discuss the books and articles at length. You will be responsible for organizing and leading discussion of the readings for one week. In most cases, this will mean pairing up with another person in the seminar. To help facilitate discussion, you should prepare a two- to three-page thought piece that raises questions and critical concerns as well as reflective comments. The format can be relatively free-form; its main purpose is to serve as a launching point for discussion. They are due the Monday before our Wednesday meeting.

**EcoHealth One Conference (25%):** This seminar is being taught in conjunction with the EcoHealth One, the first biennial conference of the International EcoHealth Association to be held in Madison from October 7-10, 2006. You will have a unique opportunity to meet and interact with many of the authors whose work we will be discussing in this seminar. You are required to attend at least four sessions/panels of the conference and submit a one-page summary for each session/panel you attended that highlights important themes or questions the session raised in relation to our seminar. These are due October 18th.

**Research Paper (50%):** You are required to produce a 20-25 page written piece of scholarship that addresses a topic related to the subject of ecology and health, either historical or contemporary in focus. Because this is an interdisciplinary mix of students, we are sensitive to the different kinds of scholarly products expected from your respective disciplines. We ask that you come to an agreement with us about what that written product will be. It might, for example, be a grant proposal, a scientific review article, or a historical research paper. You should submit a one-page abstract of your proposed written project to us by November 1st. Final papers are due December 18th.

**Setting the Stage**
9/6 Introductions


9/13 The Many Meanings of Ecology and Health


9/20 Past Ecological Visions


McMichael, Planetary Overload, pp. 56-82.

Movements

9/27 Going Mobile


10/4 Avian Influenza & other Zoonotic Diseases


10/11 Eco-Health One Conference—Attend at least four sessions of the Eco-Health One Conference, Oct. 7-10.

**The Changing Biophysical Environment**

10/18 War, Resource Scarcity, and the Legacy of Malthus


10/25 Deforestation and Habitat Change


11/1 Climate Change and Disease


Agriculture

11/8 Irrigated Landscapes


11/15 Food, Chemicals, and Disease


Urbanization
11/22 Symptoms of Inequality in Urban Life


11/29 The Built Environment – health repercussions of unhealthy urban design

McMichael, Planetary Overload, pp. 283-293.


12/6 The Urban Ecology of Not-So-Natural Disasters


Looking to the Future

12/13 Global Assessments, Environmental Governance, and the Search for an Equitable Future

TBA