

Honors Seminar

Global Burden of Diseases: The Patient Illness Experience



Dr. Anthoni Llau, PhD

Instructor Information

- **Email:** allauj01@fiu.edu
- **Phone:** 305-470-6932
- **Office Hours:** By Appointment Only
- **Turn Around:** 24 hours

Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

Course Description and Purpose

Students will first learn about current diseases and conditions of global health significance from a public health perspective. They will familiarize themselves with the determinants, risk factors, symptoms, and consequences of diseases and conditions in global populations. Students will then read several first-hand accounts of illness (e.g. videos, articles, personal memoirs) in persons affected with these diseases and conditions and use them as case studies

to explore its emotional, psychological, and social consequences. The area topics will encompass three major categories: 1) infectious diseases; 2) non-communicable diseases and; 3) environmental illnesses.

The students will be introduced to a framework for understanding not only a disease's distribution, causes, and burden, but also the personal experience represented in the case studies. It challenges students to better understand the lived experiences of those they will serve, often at the most vulnerable moments of their lives. The goal is to begin to think about disease using a holistic approach that is informed not only by rigorous science but also through empathy and compassion.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify health conditions with a major impact on global morbidity and mortality.
2. Describe the patterns of major global diseases and their risk factors.
3. Explain the patient's perspective on the experience of illness.
4. Analyze the effects of illness on loss, suffering, and life disruption.
5. Recognize and examine how patients with illnesses may experience illness differently based on life stage, ethnicity, and gender.
6. Critically evaluate the course textbooks.

Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)

Religious Observances

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements or scheduling. Please make sure to notify

your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges

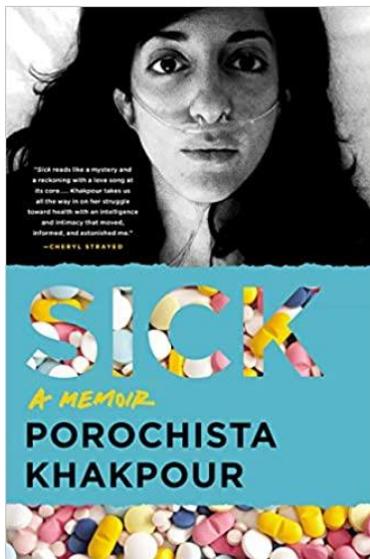
Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center, if you have not done so already. See [Accessibility and Accommodation](#) for more information.

Course Prerequisites

This course has a prerequisite: Admission to the Honors College

Review the [Course Catalog \(Links to an external site.\)](#) webpage for prerequisites information.

Textbook and Course Materials



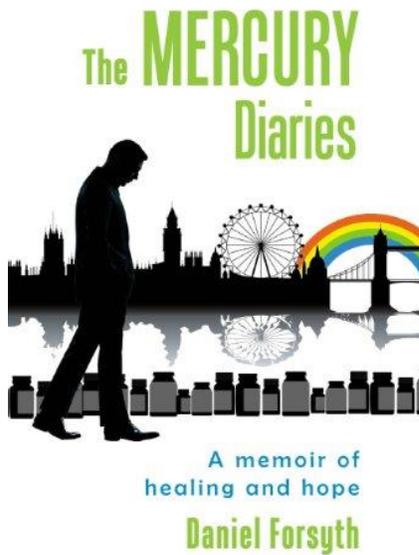
Sick: A Memoir (Required)

Porochista Khakpour
Harper Perennial, (June 5, 2018)
ISBN-10: 006242873X
ISBN-13: 978-0062428738

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

APA Citation:

Khakpour, P. (2018). *Sick: A Memoir*. New York, NY: Harper Perennial.



The Mercury Diaries (Required)

Daniel Forsyth

Capsule Press (October 17, 2012)

ISBN-10: 0983781818

ISBN-13: 978-0983781813

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

APA Citation:

Forsyth, D. (2012). *The Mercury Diaries*. New York, NY: Capsule Press.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course **3 times** per week;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **respond** to **emails** within **24 hours;**
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course **10 times** per week;
- respond to discussion postings within **3 days of the deadline;**
- respond to **emails** within **24 hours;**
- grade assignments within **5 days** of the assignment deadline.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within 24 hours.

Please note: Announcements and all guidelines for assignments will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to actively monitor Canvas for information and any changes to the syllabus, schedule, or events.

Discussion Forums

We will be utilizing this tool to conduct a few discussions during the semester. Grades will be assigned based on the students' ability to 1) think critically; 2) express their thoughts in a clear way and; 3) communicate with others.

Your discussion forum grade is based on your posts on the Discussion Boards. If you are required to post on the discussion board, it will be clearly indicated in that week's assignment. You must post at least three times for each discussion board unless otherwise indicated in the assignment description. One post should be your response to the questions posed in the discussion board. The other posts should be a thoughtful response to at least two student's posts.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

In order to receive credit, you must post your response to the posted discussion board questions by 11:59 PM on the deadline date. In addition, you must post a response to **at least two** other students by 11:59 PM on the deadline date.

Your grade on the discussion board is based on participation. Each discussion board assignment is worth 5 points. However, in order to receive full credit for these posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements:

- Posts should be a minimum of 150 words.
- Posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed, but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion.

- Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary appropriate for the course.

Assignments

Reflection Papers

The student will review the module contents posted for the week, then write a 500-word minimum critical reflection paper. The paper should **not** be a summary but rather a reflection of the student's own thinking and feelings with an emphasis on what was experienced while reviewing the module. The student should also discuss how the materials in the module can be applied in the future. A general format that can be used to structure your reflection paper is to consider the following questions:

- How did you feel while reading the testimonials and/or articles?
- What did you learn from reviewing the materials?
- How will you apply what you have learned in the future?

If additional sources are provided other than the module resources, they should be cited and referenced in APA style.

Book Review

The student will write a book review for each of our textbooks for this course. Each book review should be at least 500 words and should be a critical evaluation of the book and not a summary. The book reviews should be in APA style and address the following:

- What were the books strengths, weaknesses, etc?
- Who is the author's intended audience?
- What did the book accomplish?
- Could you relate to any of the characters in the book?
- How can the book help one improve as a healthcare professional?

All comments should be supported using the book's text.

Final Presentation

At the end of the semester, each student will become an expert on the topic of their choice. Students will develop a 15 – 20-minute presentation that will be recorded by the student and uploaded to Canvas. The presentation should be prepared using PowerPoint or other presentation software. Students will be able to express any personal experiences regarding the selected topic. Students will begin selecting their topics mid-semester.

Presentations will be graded on the following criteria:

- **Importance (20%):** Issue addresses a major global health problem, uses data to indicate the importance of the problem.
- **Scale and impact (20%):** Describes the impact and magnitude of the global health issue globally and within certain regions.
- **Risk Factors (20%):** Describe the leading risk factors associated with the global health problem.
- **Strategies (15%):** Describe strategies implemented on a large scale addressing the global health issue.
- **Personal Experience (15%):** Provide at least one personal experience (through either self or a testimonial from the internet) regarding the global health issue.
- **Presentation Style, Originality, Content, Organization (10%)**

Topic Selection for Final Presentation

By Week 6, each student should select a topic for the final presentation. The topic must be approved in advance by the professor. The topic can be any of the following listed below or one of your own. More than one student cannot present on the same topic unless it focuses on a specific population (i.e. HIV/AIDS and females). Topics will be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sample Topics:

- Chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)
 - Cancer
 - Diabetes
- Climate change
- Global health security
- Air pollution
- Infectious diseases
 - Coronaviruses
 - Ebola virus disease
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Malaria
 - Tuberculosis (TB)
 - Zika virus
- Maternal and child health
- Neurological and mental disorders and diseases

- Oral and dental health
- Trauma and injury
- Tobacco control

Please review the [important information about assignments](#) page.

Guidelines for Written Work

All written assignments MUST be typed and must conform to the instructions of the instructor. Papers and other written must include your name, Panther ID number, course number and the name of the instructor. They must be double spaced, 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) and in 12-point font, Times New Roman or Calibri and consistently adhere to the APA Formatting and Style Guide. Students are advised to carefully proofread all papers before submitting them.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Reflection Papers	10	3	30
Class Discussions	4	5	20
Book Reviews	2	15	30
Final Presentation	1	20	20
TOTAL	17	N/A	100

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	93 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 92	B-	80 - 82	D	66 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	less than 66

Access your [Course Calendar](#) for course topics and assignments.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Wed May 12, 2021	Assignment Discussion: Introduce Yourself	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 16, 2021	Assignment Reflection Paper: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Children	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 16, 2021	Assignment Reflection Paper: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Teens and Adults	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 19, 2021	Assignment Class Discussion: Vector-Borne Diseases	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 19, 2021	Assignment Reflection Paper: Vector-Borne Diseases	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 23, 2021	Assignment Reflection Paper: HIV/AIDS	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 23, 2021	Assignment Submit Your Topic for the Final Presentation	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 23, 2021	Assignment Reflection Paper: Respiratory Diseases	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 26, 2021	Assignment Book Review: Sick: A Memoir	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	Assignment Reflection Paper: Diabetes	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Class Discussion: Opioids	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 30, 2021	Assignment Reflection Paper: Heavy Metal Poisoning	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Reflection Paper: Opioids	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 2, 2021	Assignment Class Discussion: Road Traffic Injuries	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Reflection Paper: Road Traffic Injuries	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 6, 2021	Assignment Reflection Paper: Water and Sanitation	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 13, 2021	Assignment Book Review: The Mercury Diaries	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 16, 2021	Assignment Final Presentation	due by 11:59pm