

Due Date: April 27, 8:00 AM.
ABSOLUTELY NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

For 20 Extra Credit points (to be added to your in-class activities grade portion, which will be roughly enough to add about 1-1.5% to your final grade), identify a movie that includes concepts relevant to epidemiology and emerging diseases. Watch that movie and provide a 1-2 page (single-spaced) commentary on or review of the movie.

Begin with a 1-paragraph summary of the plot of your movie - this should be no more than 250 words. Your analysis/commentary or movie review should then include comments on the events of the movie and how they are or are not based on sound scientific and biological explanations of disease and the emergence of diseases. Consider whether the behavior of the characters seems reasonable given your understanding of responses to disease outbreaks (if your movie of choice includes an outbreak). Describe how the disease is shaped by human (or zombie) behavior in the movie, and provide comments on whether or not these seem to make biological sense given what the movie has revealed to you about the agent responsible for the disease. Finally, make clear suggestions (at least 3!) for how you would revise the movie (either small parts or the whole thing) to be more accurate in terms of the disease biology and ecology.

The assignment will be evaluated based on your clarity of reasoning, your concrete examples from the movie with well-thought-out explanations of their scientific merit (or lack thereof) and your strong suggestions for improvements that demonstrate evidence of thought related to our course themes from this semester.

Some recommendations for movies for analysis are listed below. Some of these are real D-listers, but that's ok for this assignment, and I promise you there're a lot of great examples of non-zombie movies that would be perfect for this assignment. In any case, this list is by no means exhaustive, but no matter what you choose, make sure that your analysis is crystal clear on why your movie warrants analysis if it is not on this list!

World War Z
28 days later (28 weeks later too)
Just about any of the Resident Evil movies
Contagion
Outbreak
The Hot Zone
The Normal Heart
And the Band Played On
12 monkeys
Quarantine
The Andromeda strain
Star Trek (the original series) S1E4: The Naked Time
Star Trek TNG S1E3: The Naked Now
How to survive a plague
Black Death
Contracted