

## **CAP 111: Writing for Cultural Literacy/ CAP 121: How Do You Know ?**

### **Unit II: How Do We Know How to Respond to an Epidemic? Using Analogous Situations**

#### **Assignment 2A: Comparison of the Swine Flu and the 1918 Flu Epidemics**

Draft Workshop: Oct. 9

Due: **Friday**, Oct. 11, by 3:00pm

Using material provided by Kolata and in class, compare and contrast the swine flu epidemic and the flu epidemic of 1918. What are their similarities and differences? Issues you may wish to consider include characteristics of the initial outbreaks, the manner of transmission of the diseases, historical context, public response to the epidemic, public health officials' handling of the situations, and/or any other issues that seem relevant.

Your essay should be 2-3 pages long, and it should show a solid understanding of the information that Kolata covers. It should also demonstrate a thoughtful engagement with that material and be organized to show the reader effectively the similarities and differences between the two epidemics. Make sure you document your source(s) clearly, using APA style.

#### **Assignment 2B: Creating a Model**

Draft Workshop: Oct. 21

Due: Oct. 23

Again using material provided by Kolata and in class, build a model of an epidemic based on either the swine flu epidemic or the epidemic of 1918. Your essay should include generalizations about the epidemic you choose, such as what factors shape public reaction and/or what factors shape policy makers' response.

This essay should also be 2-3 pages long. It should clearly explain the generalities of an epidemic based on the particulars of either specific instance (1918 or swine flu) as discussed in Kolata. Again, document your sources properly, using APA style.

#### **Unit Project 2C (Linked Assignment): The Epidemic Threat**

Draft Workshop 1: Oct. 30

Draft Workshop 2: Nov. 4

Due: Nov. 6

Those who favor small pox vaccinations in the current climate of terrorism often cite the epidemic of 1918; those who oppose vaccinations draw on the example of the swine flu. In a 6-8 page essay, argue whether or not the public should be vaccinated against small pox, based on whether a small pox epidemic would be more like the swine flu epidemic or the epidemic of 1918. Using Kolata, other sources provided, and information from class, extract relevant dimensions or characteristics from a single incident (the swine flu or the epidemic of 1918) that can become the elements of a model for analysis of other comparable situations and show how the small pox threat fits this model. Use APA style correctly.

Note that here you will be using the model you created in Assignment 2B and using it to analyze the small pox situation.