

**Study Guide #5, 10/11-10/13:
Disease History and Health Policy**

There are no readings for this week, and therefore no weekly writing assignment.

Your goal for this week is to review everything we have covered so far, including both readings and lectures. You should now feel comfortable answering any of the following questions, capable of giving thoughtful, well informed answers:

- How have the size of human populations, in the Americas and overall, changed over time, and why?
- What were the dominant causes of morbidity and mortality at different times: 1) in the Americas before Columbus, 2) in the first century after encounter between Europeans and American Indians, 3) for European colonists and settlers in North America, 4) in growing cities during the 19th century, and 5) at the dawn of the 21st century, in both developed and developing countries.
- Why do patterns of disease change over time? How can you evaluate the contribution of biological, political, economic, social, cultural, and medical factors? How do these factors interact?
- How might populations, disease, and mortality change over the next 50 to 100 years? How can we intervene to influence these developments?

You will have two chances to demonstrate your mastery of this material.

First, these questions are central to the first paper assignment, due 10/13.

Second, in lecture on 10/13 Anne Pollock will work with you to develop policy recommendations based on our knowledge of disease history.

It is crucial that you are confident with your understanding of this material. Starting with the lectures and readings in the week of 10/18 the class will move in a different direction. Having completed our survey of disease history, we will begin to study, in more detail, how diseases have affected society, focusing on the history of medicine and other social responses to disease.

If you have any questions about changing patterns of health and disease, please come by office hours or meet with us at other times.