AIDS: MYTHS AND REALITIES
Spring 2002
Tentative Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Daphne Long Rankin
Office Phone: 828-6519
213 Lafayette Hall
E-mail: drankin@mail1.vcu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Tues.and Thurs: 2:00 - 3:00
Mon.and Wed.: by appointment

In this course we will explore the entire spectrum of HIV disease and AIDS as it impacts our society. We will look at not only how this disease affects one personally, but also how the pandemic has affected many psychosocial aspects of our society.

CLASS PARTICIPATION
Active involvement (attendance, preparation for class discussion and small group work) is considered vital to the success of this course and will be reflected in the final grade. Attendance will be recorded for each class session.

ASSIGNMENTS
We hope to cover a different topic each week. Readings and on-line tasks will be assigned in conjunction with these topics.

• Service Learning Projects
Twenty hours of service will be contributed by each student to a community-based organization. The following is a description of service learning provided by the VCU website:

Service learning at VCU is a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets community-identified needs. Students reflect on their service activity in such a way as to increase their understanding and application of the course content and to enhance their sense of civic responsibility. Typically a service learning course requires a minimum of 15 hours of service with selected community-based organizations or schools. Faculty who teach service learning courses have found that extending the boundaries of the classroom into the community benefits their students’ learning in many ways. Students understand and synthesize the subject matter through a broader range of experiences and associations; gain an understanding and appreciation of the community and its people with diverse backgrounds and life situations; explore an area of study or a career option; critically reflect on their values and responsibilities as citizens; and gain a belief that through their actions, they can make a difference.

Service Learning Project Groups will be discussed in class on January 22. Assignments will be finalized by January 24. Each student will record his/her service learning experiences in a journal which will be submitted to the instructor on April 28.

• EXAM
The mid-term exam will consist of multiple choice and discussion questions.
Exam date: March 7th.

• READING ASSIGNMENTS

2. Book Reports: Each student will be required to read a book dealing with HIV/AIDS in addition to the textbook. Students will choose their own books, however, they must be approved
by the instructor. Books read will be discussed in class. Book reports, based on an outline provided by the instructor, will be due April 9th.

blackboard.vcu.edu
We will be using a Blackboard Course Management site this semester. As soon as possible, you should access this site to ensure that your email address is correct. If your email information is incorrect, I will be unable to contact you regarding class changes and updates.

Please monitor our site regularly for assignments, updates, important announcements, and schedule changes. Periodically, assignments will be posted on the "Announcements" section of our course site. In addition to these assignments, you will be asked to take part in on-line discussions and question-and-answer forums.

The Blackboard site is accessed through http://blackboard.vcu.edu In order to logon, you must supply a user ID - the first part of your VCU email address (before the @ symbol) - and a password - the same as your VCU email password. If you do not know your VCU email password, call the University Computer Services (UCS) help desk (828-2227) for help. Once you enter you Blackboard account, please check your email address and supply your favored address, if necessary.

- MEDICATION REPORT: April 3 - April 10, 2002 - project report due on April 11th
Following a class discussion of the types of HIV/AIDS medications available as well as medication adherence issues, students will take part in a week-long medication adherence project. Students will journal their progress during the week and report their results to the class.

GRADES
Grades will be based on the following percentages:
40% Exam
30% Service Learning Project
20% Medication Report
10% Book Report

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

What is Sociological About AIDS?
• HIV in the US – “And the Band Played On”
• HIV/AIDS: A Global Perspective

Social Epidemiology and Demography
• HIV/AIDS: The Spectrum of Infection
• Surveillance Data in the US and the World
• AIDS Goes to College (and so do you)
• Testing and Counseling issues

Identity and Behavior
• Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues
• AIDS and the African American Community
• HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse
• HIV/AIDS and Women
• HIV/AIDS and Pediatrics
• HIV/AIDS and Elderly Americans

Economics and Treatment
• Treatment Issues
• Complementary Therapies

Knowledge, Attitudes and Collective Behaviors
• HIV/AIDS Education

Health Professions and Occupations
• Post-exposure Prophylaxis

Providing Care
• Organizations and Services
• Counseling Issues for the HIV-Infected Person
• When a Loved One has HIV/AIDS
• Living With HIV/AIDS

Public Policy
• The Future of the Ryan White CARE Act