

Biological Futures

in a GLOBALIZED WORLD

GRADUATE MICROSEMINAR – Winter 2013

Influenza Pandemics in Perspective

JSIS 586A

Instructor: **Celia Lowe** (Anthropology)

1 CR (C/NC)

Meeting dates and times:

- Seminar meeting: Friday, January 25, 9:30-11:20 am (Denny 211)
- Seminar meeting: Friday, February 1, 9:30-11:20 am (Denny 211)
- Flu Forum: Friday, February 8, 2:30 - 4:00 pm (Communications 202)
- Public Lecture: Monday, February 11, 12:00 to 1:30 pm (Communications 202)
Rob Wallace (Institute for Global Studies, University of Minnesota)
- Seminar meeting: Friday, February 15, 9:30-11:20 am (Denny 211)

Course Description

Over the past decade and more, avian and swine flu pandemics have brought influenza into the spotlight and a series of subsequent political, ethical, historical questions to the fore. How do recent influenza outbreaks and programs for pandemic preparedness indicate the ways that disease etiologies are simplified, coded, and re-coded to reflect larger patterns of globalization and neo-liberal governance? Why are influenzas now approached as problems of “security” rather than public health? How might contemporary food provisioning systems, industrial agriculture, and human-animal relations be implicated in the emergence of disease? How do global political and economic inequalities play a key role in creating the potential for devastating pandemics, and determine how we respond to these threats? How should flu research involving dangerous and transmissible organisms be regulated, and what responsibilities do scientists have to assess and to communicate its risks?

This microseminar will prepare students to engage with the Flu Forum and with a guest lecture by evolutionary biologist Rob Wallace, and to think through issues of global health, international studies (with an emphasis on East and Southeast Asia), and science and technology studies all in relation to their own research.

This graduate microseminar is sponsored by Biological Futures in a Globalized World, a project jointly undertaken by the Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington and the Center for Biological Futures at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.