**Syllabus for OLLI Course**

**Fascinating Features and**

**Mysterious Manifestations of Disease**

**Fall 2022 Semester**

**Introductory Note:**

Thank you for registering for this course.

Much of the information may be dry facts, but I will always emphasize the human aspect, the historical perspective or the significant anecdote.

**1. Instructor Information:**

Néstor A. Ramírez, MD, MPH, FAAP is a retired physician with a specialty in Pediatrics and a sub-specialty in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (care of premature and ill newborn infants). See the OLLI Classes Fall 2022 catalogue for more details. You can contact the instructor at [nestorbabydoc@gmail.com](mailto:nestorbabydoc@gmail.com)

**2. General Course Information:**

**Purpose and Plan of this Program**

The purpose of this course is to inform the participants on rarely emphasized issues related to the color, smell, sound, texture and appearance of many diseases. Mysterious manifestations of some diseases in presenting signs, diagnostic features and therapies will be explored. All the topics will be broad overviews and cannot concentrate on any single disease. The intent is to pique interest in the topics, to stimulate further reading or research, and to motivate lifelong learning in the participants. This is not a Do-It-Yourself mini-course in Medicine.

**3. Course objectives:**

* Characterize diseases by their footprint on the visual, auditory, olfactory or tactile senses.
* Explain some non-standard manifestations of disease which make their overall diagnostic and therapeutic management complex but also intriguing and fascinating.
* Review some of the little-known epidemics of different diseases throughout time.
* Talk about diseases that plague humanity and that require vectors, carriers, and other creatures that fly, crawl, bite, burrow or otherwise invade and sicken us.
* Give participants the chance to play “medical detective” with several interesting and challenging audience participation cases.

**4. Course policies:**Registered OLLI members can participate in any or all sessions of the 8-week course. If special accommodations are required, they must be requested from and arranged through OLLI administration. Attendees may download all presentation materials from the OLLI website, usually during the week before each session. Out of respect for the time of all participants, short questions and comments during the session are permitted and encouraged. I usually intersperse at least two question intervals (first and second thirds)) during the presentation, and one at the end. Longer discussions should be done after the end of each session.

**5. Grading and Evaluation:**

There will not be any type of testing or grading.

**6. Learning Resources:**

The class presentations will be available on the OLLI website several days before each session as a PDF version. In order to get the full effect of many of the graphics, you will need the PowerPoint version of the presentation. If you email me, I can send you the PowerPoint lecture.

If you don’t have PowerPoint, in the Internet you can find free software to watch PowerPoint presentations on your device.

A *suggested optional supplementary* list of reading or viewing materials is attached and will also be posted on the website. This is alphabetized by title, and is not a formal bibliography. This is intended only to provide references for members who want to dig deeper into a topic. This is totally voluntary. Most of the titles are available at the U of I library and/or the Champaign and Urbana Public libraries.

**7. Course Calendar:**

Duration: 8 weekly sessions, Fridays from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, from September 16th to November 4th 2022, **Live** at OLLI. (Unfortunately, no ZOOM or hybrid option is available.)

**8. Short description of the course sessions:**

* Session 1 September 16th, 2022: The Color of Disease.
  + Using color to name diseases in history (the “plagues”).
  + Color, or absence thereof, as a distinguishing feature of many diseases.
  + Understanding how some of these colorful diseases are transmitted.
* Session 2 September 23rd, 2022: Diseases with an odor or a taste.
  + Exploring the odor of some diseases and infections.
  + Comparing smell capabilities of different animals compared to humans.
  + Analyze how and why some disease odors are produced.
  + Explore the potential use of dogs as an odor diagnostic tool for diseases like cancer.
  + Briefly mention the taste of some diseases.
* Session 3 September 30th, 2022: Diseases with a texture or a sound.
  + The sounds that characterize some diseases
  + The texture or “feel” of some diseases.
* Session 4 October 7th, 2022: Diseases with unusual appearance.
  + Skin anatomy and physiology
  + Diseases that have unusual appearance.
  + Malformation vs. deformation.
* Session 5 October 14th, 2022: Flying, crawling and burrowing critters.
  + Diseases transmitted or carried by other living creatures.
* The importance of mosquitoes in disease.
  + Life cycles and routes of invasion of some parasites.
* Session 6 October 21st, 2022: Forgotten or Ignored Epidemics.
  + Epidemiological definitions.
  + Forgotten or ignored epidemics.
  + Known and unknown origins of some epidemics.
* Session 7 October 28th, 2022 Medical Detectives solve mysterious cases (1)
  + The diagnostic process through time.
  + Dangers and pitfalls of modern technology,

Audience participation

* + Medical detectives: Cases 1 and 2
* Session 8 November 4th, 2022; Medical detectives (2)
  + Medical detectives: Cases 3, 4, and 5

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

OLLI @ University of Illinois

Fall 2022 Semester

Fascinating Features and Mysterious Manifestations of Disease

Supplemental, Optional Reading/Viewing List, alphabetical by title.

1. **101 Most Unusual Disease and Disorders (The).** Kelly, Evelyn B. Greenwood Books,

ABC-CLIO. Santa Barbara CA, 2016.

2. **American Plague (The),** The Untold Story of Yellow Fever, the Epidemic that Shaped

Our Country. Crosby, Molly Caldwell. Berkeley Book, New York, NY, 2006.

3. **Asleep,** The Forgotten Epidemic that Remains One of Medicine’s Greatest

Mysteries. Crosby, Molly Caldwell. Berkeley Books, New York, NY, 2010.

4. **Awakenings**. Sacks, Oliver. Vintage Books/Random House, Inc. New York, NY, 1999.

5. **Black Death (The) and Dancing Mania (The).** Hecker, Justus Friederich Karl. FV

Editions, Amazon Kindle E-Books, 2016.

6. **Deadly Dinner Party (The)** and Other Medical Detective Stories. Edlow, Jonathan A.

Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 2009.

7. **Diagnosis**, Solving the Most Baffling Medical Mysteries. Sanders, Lisa. Broadway

Books, New Yok, NY, 2019.

8. **Diagnosis**. A Netflix Documentary Series. Lightbox,/Scott Rudin Production in

Association with The New York Times. Series 1, Seven episodes, 2019.

9. **Eleven Blue Men**, and Other Stories of Medical Detection. Roueché, Berton. Little

Brown Co., Boston MA, 1954.

10. **English Sweating Sickness (The)** 1485-1551: A Viral Pulmonary Disease? Taviner, M,

Thwaites, G, Gant, V. Medical History, Vol. 42: 96-98, 1998.

11. **Every Patient Tells a Story,** Medical Mysteries and the Art of Diagnosis. Sanders, Lisa

Broadway Books, New York, NMY, 2009.

12. **Man Who Tasted Shapes (The).** Cytowic, Richard E. Bradford Books, The MIT Press,

Cambridge MA, 1993.

13. **Medical Detectives (The).** Roueché, Berton. Truman Talley Books/Plume,

New York, NY, 1991.

14. **Microbe Hunters,** The Classic Book on the Major Discoveries of the Microscopic

World. De Kruif, Paul. Harvest Books, Harcourt Inc., San Diego, CA, 1954.

15. **Ninety-Nine Gnats, Nits, and Nibblers**. Berenbaum, May R. University of Illinois

Press, Urbana, IL, 1989.

16. **Unnatural Death**: Confessions of a Medical Examiner. Baden, Michael M. Ivy Books,

New York, NY, 1989.

17. **Wicked Bugs,** The Louse that Conquered Napoleon’s Army & Other Diabolical

Insects. Stewart, Amy. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 2011.

NAR/nar 2022