MICROBIOLOGY
SYLLABUS: RESEARCH PAPER

For this assignment, you will be writing a research paper on a topic of your choice related to the broad subject of microbiology. Please choose a topic that you are highly interested in or have a strong passion for as you will be spending a great deal of time learning about it.

Important Dates:

Due: Topic Selected
Your research topic is due on or before this date. The topics are approved on a first come first serve basis. It is, therefore, in your best interest to decide you topic early. You should also prepare a brief written statement about your topic. This statement should include the following items:

1. Your topic
2. Why you chose it
3. What you currently know about the topic
4. What you hope to learn about the topic
5. Where resources you plan to use to find information

Due: Annotated Bibliography
Your annotated bibliography must include 10 sources that you plan to use for your research paper. Each source should be cited using APA format and include a short summary of the source. Use the following example as a guide.

Examples will be provided in class.

Due: Parts A & B
The rough drafts of the History and Geography sections of your paper are due. In-text citations and a bibliography of the sources used on these sections must be included.

Due: Parts C & D
The rough drafts of the Morphology, Pathogenicity (etc.) and Effects on Humans sections of your paper are due. In-text citations and a bibliography of the sources used on these sections must be included.

Due: Parts E & F
The rough drafts of the Cures/Treatment and Issues for the Future sections of your paper are due. In-text citations and a bibliography of the sources used on these sections must be included.

See the paper requirements for details.
Due: Final Bibliographies
At this point, your final bibliographies should be in Noodlebib

Due: Final Draft
Your final draft of your paper is due.

Dates for use of the library:
We will meet in the library or the Science Computer lab (S201) during most Fridays. The library will be available during your regular class time to allow you to research your topic, read through your sources, and write your paper. However, library time alone will not be sufficient to complete this assignment. You will be expected to spend time on this assignment outside of class as well.

Paper Requirements:

Format
I. Length
   a. Minimum of 10 pages of text.
   b. Pictures, charts, etc. should be placed at the end of the paper and do NOT count towards the 10 page minimum

II. Style
   a. Typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font
   b. 1 inch margins
   c. Double-spaced

III. Citations
   a. APA format
      i. In-text citations
         1. Follow APA rules, using Noodlebib helps with this process
      ii. Bibliography
         1. Cited documents are to be listed in the bibliography at the end of the paper in alphabetical order by author’s last name.
         2. Include an abstract

Example: The paraphrased statement or quote is written directly in the text of the paper. If it is a direct quote, the use of quotation marks is required.

It has been reported that last year alone over one million tons of solid waste entered the United States fresh water supply illegally. (Brown, 1998, p. 126)

The citation would appear in the bibliography as follows:

Content

I. Introduction (1-2 pages)
   In this section, you will be expected to open the paper with ideas about the topic that the paper will address, however, you should not use any personal pronouns. Ideas will come to you as you research. Write them down and address them in your introduction. **The introduction should not be completed until the rest of the paper has been written!**

II. Discussion/Evidence (6-8 pages)
   What did you find out about your topic? This is where you will need to reference your sources. The literature you cite as evidence **MUST** be of professional quality.

   Topics covered should include, but are not limited to the following:
   a. History – background, discoverers, etc.
   b. Geography – location, points of origin, geographic distribution, etc.
   c. Morphology – pathogenicity, medical relevance, economic relevance, etc.
   d. Effects on humans – reactions in the human body, physiology, symptoms
   e. Cure, treatment, epidemiology, etc.
   f. Issues, attitudes, relevance for life on our planet now and in the future

III. Conclusion (1-2 pages)
   This is your interpretation of what you found in your research (again, avoiding personal pronouns). Put all that you have learned in perspective for your reader. Suggest areas of further study and future concern. Make the reader feel that what they have just read was worthwhile and important.

IV. Bibliography
   Follow all APA formatting rules.

V. Pictures/Charts
   You should include any pictures/charts that you feel enhances or clarifies your research.

Presentation:
The requirements for your presentation will be provided on a separate document when the time comes. Like your research paper, your presentation should be of professional quality. This means you will dress, act, and speak professionally. **IF YOU STAND UP AND SIMPLY READ FROM YOUR REPORT YOU WILL RECEIVE AN “E”**.

Your presentation should include the following:
- A summary of how you became interested in the topic
- One specific question you hoped your research would answer
- One surprising or interesting piece of information you learned from your research

*Remember you will be the expert on the topic. You will be graded on how well you know your subject and how well you deliver your presentation.*