

Rogue Cells

Course Information

Course Number HONS 3199.hn6
Course Title Rogue Cells
Term Spring 2026

Instructor

Jennifer Painter, DC
jennifer.painter@utdallas.edu
Office Hours: By appointment; in-person available Mon/Tues/Thurs

Course Objectives

Using Siddhartha Mukherjee's *The Emperor of All Maladies* as a foundational text, this course will explore scientific and historical aspects of cancer as well as questions about policy, ethics, and the patient experience. Through weekly readings and discussions, students will examine how cancer has been studied, treated, and feared across time and cultures.

Required Books & Materials

The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer by Siddhartha Mukherjee
All other materials will be provided by pdf or links.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be based on attendance, informed participation, weekly response pieces, and a group presentation. The grading scale for letters from percentages will be as follows: A+: 97-100%, A: 93-96%, A-:90-92%, B+: 87-89%, B: 83-86%, B-:80-82%, C+: 77-79%, C: 73-76%, C-:70-72%, D: 60-69%.

There is **no extra credit** and late work will be accepted only with appropriate notice at the discretion of the instructor, with deductions for undocumented late work.

Generative AI

The use of any generative AI tools is not permitted for any assignment or activity which makes up part of your grade. That includes, but may not be limited to, class discussions, weekly responses, and class presentations. Any unauthorized use of these tools will be considered plagiarism.

Class Participation & Attendance: 50%

I expect students to come to class having read the material and ready to contribute to the group discussion. Attendance is not participation! Bring your notes with you to class. Be respectful of your classmates. Use of cell phones, laptops, etc, is prohibited during class to minimize distractions. Exceptions may be made for e-readers used for class material.

Discussion-based courses require the full attention and participation of all students.

Late arrival is distracting and will lead to a deduction in points for that day. You will be allowed one unexcused/undocumented absence without a grade deduction.

Weekly Responses: 35%

You will write and turn into eLearning, before the class session, weekly responses to the assigned readings/videos/podcasts (minimum 250 words each). This serves to improve class discussions and help you focus. Feel free to note anything that stands out to you, even if it is not part of the prompt.

Presentation: 15%

Several will be set aside for student presentations, in which small groups of students will introduce a related topic of their choice and then lead a brief discussion. More guidelines will be shared in class.

Course Topics by Week – subject to change

| Week | Topic | Reading/Assignments |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Course Introduction | |
| 2 | Introduction to Cancer | Text, p. 1-36; video |
| 3 | Nature of Cancer | Text, p. 37-79; article |
| 4 | Early Cancer Treatments | Text, p. 80-104; article |
| 5 | Presentation #1 | |
| 6 | Clinical Trials | Text, p. 128-150, 180-190; article |
| 7 | Cancer Activism & Funding | Text, p. 193-226; article |
| 8 | Presentation #2 | |
| <i>Spring Break Week</i> | | |
| 9 | Cancer Epidemiology & Prevention | Text, p. 237-333 |
| 10 | Molecular Basis of Cancer | Text, p. 337-392; article |
| 11 | Presentation #3 | |
| 12 | NO CLASS – Conference | |
| 13 | Future of Cancer Treatment | Text, p. 395-459 |
| 14 | Treatment Decisions & Alternatives | Supplemental materials |
| 15 | Presentation #4 | |

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.