

Women and Historically Excluded and Underrepresented Microbiologists

(MCB 3841W)

Time: T/R 11-12:15pm

Location: T/R 11-12:15pm

Dr. Kat Milligan-Myhre – Kathryn.milligan-myhre@uconn.edu

Office hours: Normal hours Thursday 3:00-4:00pm, <https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=m62b7da59e6d0bcf2df1ff31a82932a71>

Office hours are a time when I am available to meet with you. Ask questions. Clarify confusion. Please use this time! We can also meet by appointment - email in advance to set up a time.

Course Description

Microbiology history and research reflects the people who perform it. In this class, we will discuss the history of the exclusion of people from different backgrounds in Western Science, implications of this, the people from historically excluded and underrepresented backgrounds who have succeeded in microbiology and what it took to get there, and ways that we can improve science to include people from diverse backgrounds.

Textbook

None. Readings will be assigned from primary literature and will be available on HuskyCT.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Read, interpret and discuss literature about people from historically excluded backgrounds
2. Understand the (known) forces shaping who is included in microbiology discussions
3. Give examples of people from historically excluded backgrounds who have contributed to microbiology
4. Discuss the future of microbiology research and how to make the field more inclusive to people from historically excluded and underrepresented backgrounds
5. Research and write thoughtful commentaries around these topics to a variety of audiences

Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topic
T	8/31/2021	Introduction; Asynchronous, online
R	9/2/2021	Assessment of first assignment; Asynchronous, online
T	9/7/2021	1: History of exclusion of women and underrepresented scientists
R	9/9/2021	1: History of exclusion of women and underrepresented scientists
T	9/14/2021	1: History of exclusion of women and underrepresented scientists
R	9/16/2021	1: History of exclusion of women and underrepresented scientists
T	9/21/2021	1: History of exclusion of women and underrepresented scientists
R	9/23/2021	2: Consequences of excluding women and underrepresented scientists

T	9/28/2021	2: Consequences of excluding women and underrepresented scientists
R	9/30/2021	2: Consequences of excluding women and underrepresented scientists
T	10/5/2021	2: Consequences of excluding women and underrepresented scientists
R	10/7/2021	2: Consequences of excluding women and underrepresented scientists
T	10/12/2021	3: Where are we now?
R	10/14/2021	3: Where are we now?
T	10/19/2021	3: Where are we now?
R	10/21/2021	3: Where are we now?
T	10/26/2021	3: Where are we now?
R	10/28/2021	4: Current HEU leaders in microbiology
T	11/2/2021	4: Current HEU leaders in microbiology
R	11/4/2021	4: Current HEU leaders in microbiology
T	11/9/2021	4: Current HEU leaders in microbiology
R	11/11/2021	4: Current HEU leaders in microbiology
T	11/16/2021	5: Future directions to ensure science is inclusive
R	11/18/2021	5: Future directions to ensure science is inclusive
T	11/23/2021	No class - Holiday
R	11/25/2021	No class - Holiday
T	11/30/2021	5: Future directions to ensure science is inclusive
R	12/2/2021	5: Future directions to ensure science is inclusive
T	12/7/2021	5: Future directions to ensure science is inclusive
R	12/9/2021	Last day of class

Evaluation – Grades will not be curved and will be assigned on how many of the assigned points you have earned over the course of the semester. **NOTE: You are responsible for all of the assignments below. Details for each assignment will be given in class and provided on HuskyCT.**

50 points – assignment 1

200 points: drafts of each assignment (except #1), 40 points each x 5 drafts

750 points: 5 module assignments, each worth 150 points

Late penalty = 10% the first day; 5% every day thereafter.

Grading Scale

>94% = A	86 – 89.9% = B+	76 – 79.9% = C+	66 – 69.9% = D+
89.9 – 94% = A-	83 - 86% = B	73-76% = C	63 - 66% = D
	79.9 – 83% = B-	69.9 – 73% = C-	59.9 – 63% = D-
			<59.9% = F

According to university-wide policies for W courses, you cannot pass this course unless you receive a passing grade for its writing components.

Assignments (subject to change; notifications will be given in class and on Husky CT)

Assignment 1: Details given in asynchronous lecture and in link in email; due Sept 1, 2021

Module 1: Essay on the exclusion of HEU scientists in STEM, with a focus on microbiology. 3 pages. Draft due Sept 14, final due Sept 23.

Module 2: In class presentation on the consequences of excluding scientists in STEM. Draft slides and transcript due Oct 5, final presentation due Oct 12.

Module 3: Visualization of statistics about HEU in STEM currently. Draft visualization, concepts, and description due Oct 19, final visualization with description and references due Oct 28.

Module 4: In depth review of 1-3 or a group of HEU microbiologists. Draft due Nov 9, final due Nov 16.

Module 5: Call to action essay about what the field can do to increase the diversity of microbiology. Draft due Dec 2, final due Dec 13.

University Writing Center

All UConn students are invited to visit the University Writing Center for individualized tutorials. The Writing Center staff includes talented and welcoming graduate and undergraduate students from across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. They work with writers at any stage of the writing process, from exploring ideas to polishing final drafts. Their first priority is guiding each student's revisions, so they frequently provide a sounding board for a writer's ideas, arguments, analytical moves, and uses of evidence. They can also work with you on sentence-level concerns, but please note that they will not proofread for you; instead, they will help you become a better editor of your own work. You should come with a copy of the assignment you are working on, a current draft (or notes if you are not yet at the draft stage), and ideas about what you want out of a session. Tutorials run 45 minutes and are free. You can drop in or make an appointment. For hours, locations, and more information, please go to <https://writingcenter.uconn.edu/>. If you have read this far and want 10 free points, email me a picture of your favorite animal.

Academic Integrity

In this course we aim to conduct ourselves as a community of scholars, recognizing that academic study is both an intellectual and ethical enterprise. You are encouraged to build on the ideas and texts of others; that is a vital part of academic life. You are also obligated to document every occasion when you use another's ideas, language, or syntax. You are encouraged to study together, discuss readings outside of class, share your drafts during peer review and outside of class, and go to the Writing Center with your drafts. In this course, those activities are well within the bounds of academic honesty. However, when you use another's ideas or language—whether through direct quotation, summary, or paraphrase—you must formally acknowledge that debt by signaling it with a standard form of academic citation. Even one occasion of academic dishonesty, large or small, on any assignment, large or small, will result in failure for the entire course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs. For University policies on academic honesty, please see UConn's Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code and the Office of Community Standards: <http://www.community.uconn.edu>.

Students With Disabilities

Students who need accommodations because of a disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester. Students should also contact the Center for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.csd.uconn.edu/>.

Academic Honesty Statement – Written and presented work will be checked for plagiarism. Identified cases of academic dishonesty will receive a zero on the assignment or test and student will be referred to the Dean's office for appropriate disciplinary action.

Covid related information

Until further notice, to ensure a safe learning environment for everyone, masks/face coverings must be worn at all times when inside buildings, including in the classroom, regardless of vaccination status. If a student is not wearing a mask/face covering, they will be asked by the instructor to put one on immediately or leave the classroom. Repeatedly failing to follow this expectation will result in a referral to Community Standards. Activities that involve temporarily removing the mask, such as eating or drinking are not allowed. Please leave the classroom for such activities. If an instructor is not wearing a mask/face covering, students should feel comfortable asking the instructor to put one on immediately. More information about proper usage of masks is available from UConn Environmental Health and Safety at this [link](#).

Although social distancing will not be required inside classrooms for vaccinated individuals, please be respectful of the wishes of others who prefer to maintain social distancing. For their own protection, unvaccinated individuals are requested to maintain 6 feet social distancing from others.