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First Year Experience - People, Parasites & Pestilence  
EPP 1001, Fall 2015  
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## Introduction

The concept of “One Health” was introduced to the class and the relationship between animal health, human health, and ecosystem health was discussed during the semester. The class explored ways the students could become well-informed and what roles they might play in the community concerning public health issues and the inter-related roles of veterinarians, physicians, researchers, and other health-related professionals. They discussed well-known arthropod-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, malaria, Lyme disease, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever from a global and historical perspective as well as what they could do as individuals and as a community in preventing outbreaks.

## Purpose and Design

The class was designed to be run as if it were a symposium on One Health. This “symposium” had guest speakers and seven students, enrolled for the first time at Mississippi State University. There were a total of fourteen sessions. Students were expected to attend and participate in all sessions. The purpose of the symposium was to draw on information presented in class, during interactive sessions, and from research contributions from participants (students). Each student selected a topic concerning One Health and researched it during the semester. For their final exam they prepared a paper (included below) and a professional presentation. They each presented their chosen topics as if they were at a worldwide symposium. They learned how to research information, prepare a paper, make a presentation, and listen and learn from others. The class provided a nurturing environment for learning basic skills necessary to successfully engage in class, and participate in subsequent classes. They were encouraged to develop a mature approach for interacting with others in a professional environment, basic research concepts, basics of preparing a publishable paper, and coaching in presentation of scientific ideas. The topics below were prepared and presented by the students.

