

Global Scholars Capstone 2018-2019

Summer Reading Assignment

Materials:

- **Podcast:** “John Snow’s Ghost Map,” *Stuff You Missed in History Class*. Stream or download (transcript also available)
<https://www.missedinhistory.com/podcasts/john-snows-ghost-map.htm>
- **Book:** *The Ghost Map*, Steven Johnson, pages 159-228 (“Friday, September 8: The Pump Handle” and the Conclusion)

This assignment is due by the start of classes so we can begin the year well versed in the cholera epidemic that ravaged Broad Street in London in 1854. I will check my email throughout the summer if you have any questions. Though the reading will take some time, note that this is a short selection from the book. The podcast and responses shouldn’t take more than an hour of your time unless you feel inclined to write more!

Complete in this order:

- 1) Create a Google Drive Folder with the following name: **1819GSC_Last Name**; you will use this throughout the year.
- 2) **Podcast:**
 - a) Listen to the podcast; you may stream or download it.
 - b) Create a GoogleDoc file in your folder titled: **Ghost Map Podcast**
 - c) In this file, please write for at least 5 minutes on your thoughts about the 1854 Cholera outbreak and response. Think about the event, the response, the key players, what stands out to you, and your feelings.
- 3) **Book:**
 - a) Read pages 159-228 (“Friday, September 8: The Pump Handle” and the Conclusion).
 - b) Create a GoogleDoc file in your folder titled: **Ghost Map Readings**
 - c) Write a short response to any **two** of the following prompts or quotations (spend at least ten minutes on each response):

- i) “And so it was with the Broad Street well that the decision to remove the pump handle turned out to be more significant than the short-term effects of that decision.” (163). Is this a fair statement? Are there other situations (contemporary or historical) you can think of where this sentiment might apply?
- ii) Benjamin Hall approached this outbreak firmly believing that the cause was miasma, and even issued a very specific and arguably biased list of directives for inspectors (163-165). In doing so, did he set himself up for failure? Johnson notes, “Hall’s instructions for his cholera committee offer a brilliant case study in how dominant intellectual paradigms can make it more difficult for the truth to be established, even if the people involved are smart and attentive and methodical in their research.”(165) When solving global problems, how can we avoid letting our best intentions or assumptions unfairly prejudice our thought process?
- iii) What maps would be important in illustrating your own life? Where would you map, what you include, and what would you not include?
- iv) In the Conclusion, what do you feel Johnson leaves out? Are there any lingering questions you want answers to? Is there anything you feel he got wrong or that you feel needs to be updated (this was published in 2006)? If you had the chance to ask him any questions, what would you ask him?
- v) Johnson believes that Snow and Whitehead solved this problem so well because they combined their unique expertise: Snow’s science and methodology, and Whitehead’s knowledge of the area as a local. Think about your own hometown; what could you, as a local, recommend to your city? What kind of experts might you partner with to make it a success?
- vi) Write your own response to something that resonated with you in the reading.

4) Share your folder with Ms. Donohue by the start of our first class in September!

5) Wear sunblock, eat ice cream, run through some sprinklers, and have a terrific summer!