

4.6) MOVIE: *CONTAGION*

Questions:

1. Was the pandemic caused by parasite, bacteria, or virus?
2. Where did the pathogen originate?
3. What was the main role of the WHO?
4. What was the main role of the CDC?
5. What did the US government first do to stop it from spreading after the pandemic was first identified?
6. Why did the government delay announcing the pandemic to the general public?
7. Who is/are the protagonist(s) in the movie?
8. Who is/are the antagonist(s) in the movie?
9. What agency played the biggest role in tracing how the disease infected other people in Hong Kong after it infected “patient zero”?
10. What agency played the biggest role in getting the disease under control?
11. What policy or treatment finally succeeded in controlling the disease?
12. How did the disease in the movie differ from COVID-19 in terms of overall lethality?
13. How did the disease in the movie differ from COVID-19 in terms of people at risk?
14. List one similarity between COVID-19 mitigation policies and the mitigation policies depicted in the movie.

15. List one difference between COVID-19 mitigation policies and the mitigation policies depicted in the movie.
16. What two animals (other than humans) were involved in origin of the virus?
17. The origin of the virus is depicted in the closing scenes of the movie. Was the virus designed in a lab? Explain:
18. How did the disease jump from animals to humans?
19. What human activity depicted in the closing scenes of the movie caused the virus to pass from a wild animal to a domestic animal?
20. How was the vaccine applied?
21. What institutions or special interests benefit from this movie? Hint: who are the “heroes” in *Contagion*?
22. What institutions or special interests are adversely affected by this movie? Hint: Who are the “villains” and/or “quacks” in *Contagion*?

For online discussion read the following article from Vigilant Citizen on *Contagion*:

Contagion: How Disaster Movies 'Educate' the Masses by Vigilant Citizen March 8, 2012.
<https://vigilantcitizen.com/moviesandtv/contagion-or-how-disaster-movies-educate-the-masses/>

1. First post: Some praise *Contagion* as “prophetic” for how it predicted many aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic back in 2011, but someone under the pseudonym “Vigilant Citizen” speculated that the filmmakers had ulterior motives. Do you agree or disagree with Vigilant Citizen? To answer this, you need to quote or paraphrase one item from the article that surprised, interested, and/or upset you and explain why it made you feel this way.
2. Second post: Respond to a post from another student. Generic responses like “Nice post!” get no credit. You need to specify what you think about the post for full credit. Disagreement is encouraged but you must keep it civil!