



Syllabus

HIS 265 The Black Death and Beyond: How Disease Has Changed History

General Information

Date

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Author

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Department

Social Science

Course Prefix

HIS

Course Number

265

Course Title

The Black Death and Beyond: How Disease Has Changed History

Course Information

Credit Hours

3

Lecture Contact Hours

3

Lab Contact Hours

0

Other Contact Hours

0

Catalog Description

This course investigates the manifold ways in which plague, smallpox, typhus and other diseases have shaped human history, from antiquity to the present. It also explores how civilization (urbanization, imperialism, war, medical and technological progress etc.) have, in turn, influenced the development of disease and helped determine the nature and course of history's greatest epidemics/pandemics. This course carries SUNY General Education credit in Western Civilization and Other World Civilizations.

Prerequisites

ENG 095

Co-requisites

ENG 101

Grading Scheme

Letter

First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

This course **DOES NOT** satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

SUNY General Education

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed categories

Other World Civilizations

Western Civilization

FLCC Values

Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Vitality

Inquiry

Interconnectedness

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the ways in which medical theories and practices reflect the distinctive features of Western civilization; its history, institutions, geography, economy, religions, society, and/or culture.
2. Connect developments in Western medicine to those of other regions of the world.
3. Analyze some of the major events and themes of Western and/or global medical history.

Program Affiliation

This course is not required as a core course in a program

Outline of Topics Covered

Why Medical History?

Disease & Early Human History

Disease in Ancient Near Eastern Civilization: Egypt and Mesopotamia

Ancient Greek Medicine

- Hippocrates, Humanism and Humors
- Dysentery & the Persian Wars
- Typhoid Fever and the Plague of Athens

Medicine and Malaria in the Age of Alexander the Great

Ancient Roman Medicine

- Galenic Medicine and Surgery
- Medical Explanations for the Fall of Rome
- Byzantine Medicine and Justinian's Plague

Medieval Medicine

- Medicine in the Age of Faith & Superstition
- Leprosy, Ergotism and Scrofula
- Islamic Medicine
- The Black Death

Medicine in the Age of the Renaissance and Scientific Revolution: Humanism, Classicism and the Rebirth of Anatomy

The Columbian Exchange I: Syphilis

The Columbian Exchange II: Smallpox

Scurvy: Scourge of the Sea

Typhus: Napoleonic Scourge

Diseases of the Industrial Revolution: Cholera

Diseases of the Industrial Revolution: Tuberculosis (TB)

The Victorian Medical Revolution

- Pasteur, Koch and the Bacteriological Revolution
- Surgery (Anesthesia & Antisepsis), Sanitary Reform and Nursing

Medicine in the Age of Total War: WWI

Influenza: The 'Viral Pirate' and the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918

Medical Developments in the Second World War

Post-WWII Medical Triumphs

Disease Threats of the 21st century: HIV-AIDS, Ebola, West Nile, SARS, Swine and Bird Flu and Bio-Terrorism