In this class, we will examine the reactions and responses of U.S. cities to disease epidemics, (smallpox, cholera, yellow fever, the great Influenza, AIDS, and COVID-19) through the lens of gender, class, race, and culture from the 18th century to the present. We will pay close attention to how bodies were treated differently depending on how they were culturally and socially labeled. We will also explore how these responses on an individual, institutional, and state level shaped the current response system to health issues involving contagion. This course is designed around weekly questions that speak to the overall class themes and learning objectives. Readings for the course will be available online. Written work will consist of a short answer midterm, and a 5-7 page paper on the history of a disease or health problem that interests you.