HIS 570.02: Pandemics

Paul Kelton

Wednesday, 4:25-7:15 PM, Online

This is a readings course on historical studies of major diseases that have caused pandemics: bubonic plague, smallpox, yellow fever, cholera, influenza, and AIDS. We will take a biography of disease approach, focusing on a particular disease as a unit of study: analyzing how each evolved and spread, and examining how human responses to each have varied over time and space. While the evolution of medical science and therapeutics will receive some attention, most readings focus on the social, cultural, economic, and political aspects of pandemics. Students will have the opportunity to explore pandemics in the context of their particular geographical and chronological area of interest. HIS MA/PhD and MAT Social Studies students register for HIS 570.02.