Controlling Epidemics: Historical Perspectives
(ME 150.735)

Instructors:
Randall Packard (Welch 304, rpackar2@jhmi.edu, 410 955-7079)
Time: Spring 2018 Wednesday 1:30-3:30
Place: Welch 303

This course explores efforts to contain disease epidemics across time and space, from the fourteenth-century black plague to recent epidemics of Ebola and Zika viruses. The course draws on historical materials from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin American and emphasizes the ways in which political, social, and economic institutions and practices influence how individuals and societies respond to the threat of disease epidemics. The course will also explore the various approaches that historians have taken to understand the history of epidemics.

Assignments: Graduate students in history, and the history of science, medicine and technology, will be expected to prepare a research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the professor. Other students will prepare 3 response papers and a final take-home essay.

The following books will be available on reserve, but you may wish to purchase them because of the length of the readings:


Mariola Espinosa, Epidemic Invasions, Yellow Fever and the Limits of Cuban Independence, 1878-1930 (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2009)


Donald G. McNeil, Zika, The Emerging Epidemic (New York, Norton, 2016)

January 31 Introduction

February 7: No Class

February 14: The Black Death


February 21: Smallpox


“The paper war during Boston's smallpox epidemic of 1721”
http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/index.htm


Nancy Stephan, Eradication Ridding the World of Disease Forever?, 185-223.

Research paper: define a topic and a research question. Provide a list of secondary sources/bibliography.

February 28: Yellow Fever


**March 7: Cholera**


Mark Harrison, “Quarantine, pilgrimage and colonial trade: India 1866-1900,” *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 29 (1992), 117-144.


**March 14: The Return of Plague**

March 21 No Class  SPRING BREAK

March 28: Influenza, 1918-1919


Nancy Tomes, “Destroyer and Teacher”: Managing the Masses During the 1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic. Public Health Reports, 125, 3 (2010), 48-62


http://chm.med.umich.edu/research/1918-influenza-escape-communities

Research paper: submit a 200 word abstract and a detailed outline of your research paper.

April 4: Tuberculosis


Sunil Amrith, "In search of a 'magic bullet' for Tuberculosis: South India and Behind," Social History of Medicine, 17:1 (2004), 113-130.


April 11 HIV/AIDS

Gerald Oppenheimer, " Causes, Cases, and Cohorts: The Role of Epidemiology in the Historical Construction of AIDS, : in Elizabeth Fee and Daniel M. Fox. AIDS the Making of a Chronic Disease, 49-83

Steven Epstein, “Democracy, Expertise, an Activism for AIDS Treatment,” in Randall M Packard, et. al. Emerging Illnesses and Society: Negotiating the Public Health Agenda, 102-120.


April 18: Ebola


April 25: Dengue and Zika


Research paper: submit a rough first draft

May 2: Review
Research paper: make a presentation of your research to the class (no more than 10 minutes).

May 14
Research paper: submit final paper.