

HIS 293
Disease in American History

Satisfies: STAS

Thematic Concentrations: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections,"
"Health, Science & Environmental Change"

Lecture: M/W 11:00-11:53AM
[+Recitations]

Professor Nancy Tomes

This course analyzes the role of changing disease patterns in the evolution of modern American culture. We will look at the transition from the 19th c. "age of epidemics" (smallpox, cholera) to the 20th c. "diseases of affluence" (cancer, cardiovascular disease), then finish with the late 20th c. return of new and re-emerging infectious diseases (AIDS, COVID.) Course readings will include selections from books such as Alan Kraut, *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace"* and Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Written work will consist of a 3-5 page take home midterm, a 5-7 page "backgrounder" paper on the history of a disease or health problem that interests you. and a final exam.