Course Description

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic has shuttered businesses and led to worldwide orders that people stay at home. Yet even as the death toll rose and medical systems strained in cities from New York to Rome to Wuhan, there were some who doubted the necessity of such stay-at-home orders or who argued that the cure was worse than the disease.

As this recent example demonstrates, even in the twenty-first century the nature of disease and how to prevent it is not merely a matter of science, but an issue laden with cultural, political, and religious concerns. This course will chart the history of disease both as a subject of scientific inquiry and a cultural and religious phenomenon. We will begin by providing a solid background in both the historical and scientific concepts related to disease, before moving on to discuss major outbreaks in World History including the Black Plague, Cholera, Syphilis, Influenza, and, of course, COVID-19.

Instructors: Brad Bouley and John Latto

Thanks to the generosity of John and Jody Arnhold, scholarships of $2,000 (applicable to unit fees) will be available to selected students.

Step 1: Request an add code by emailing info@summer.ucsb.edu.
Step 2: If you would like to apply for a scholarship, prepare a brief essay (no more than 300 words) explaining why you are interested in the course. You will receive instructions on how to submit your scholarship essay along with your add code.

The scholarship application deadline is July 1, 2020.