

HST6601 War Epidemics Civilization (2017-2018 Academic Year)

View Online



From the mysterious plague that brought about the fall of Athens in 430 BC to the reforms to the English feudal system that followed the Black Death of the 14th century, epidemics have long been regarded as agents of historical change. Environmental and medical historians suggests it was smallpox, not the horse or superior Castilian steel, that enabled Cortes to subdue the mighty Aztec empire, and it was typhus, rather than the harsh Russian winter, that hastened the retreat of Napoleon's Grand Armée from Moscow in 1812.

And just as disease can influence the outcome of war and conquest, so in times of peace, it is argued, epidemics have an unusual ability to destabilize society and threaten political institutions. Little wonder then that states have frequently sought to blame epidemics on marginal groups, whether they be Jews (plague, typhus), homosexuals (HIV/AIDS), or African migrants (Ebola).

In this module you will engage with big themes in environmental and military history by studying contemporary accounts of plagues and conquest and scrutinizing the historiography linking epidemics with war and the rise and fall of civilizations.

85 items

CORE READING (14 items)

History and Geography of the Most Important Diseases - Erwin H. Ackernecht

[Book](#) | Optional

Wiley: The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914 - C. A. Bayly - 2016-11-14

[Webpage](#) | Recommended

Of war and epidemics: unnatural couplings, problematic conceptions - Cooter, Roger R, 2003-01-08

[Article](#) | Essential

The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492 - Alfred W. Crosby

[Book](#) | Essential

Guns, germs and steel: the fates of human societies - Jared M. Diamond, 1997

[Book](#) | Recommended

EPIDEMICS AND REVOLUTIONS: CHOLERA IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE - Richard J. Evans, 1988

[Article](#) | Recommended

The burdens of disease: epidemics and human response in western history - J. N. Hays, c2009

[Book](#) | Recommended

Plagues and peoples - W. H. McNeill, 1979

[Book](#) | Essential

Epidemics and Ideas: Essays on the Historical Perception of Pestilence - T. O. Ranger, Paul Slack, 1992

[Book](#) | Optional

Explaining epidemics and other studies in the history of medicine - C. E. Rosenberg, 1992

[Book](#) | Recommended

Conquest: how societies overwhelm others - Library Discovery

[Webpage](#)

Epidemics and history: disease, power, and imperialism - S. J. Watts, c1997

[Book](#) | Optional

Questioning Collapse - Cambridge University Press

[Webpage](#) | Optional | Chapter 8. David Cahill, "Advanced Andeans and Backward Europeans: Structure and Agency in the Collapse of the Inca Empire," pp. 207-239

Rats, lice, and history - Hans Zinsser, c2008

[Book](#) | Essential

Week 10: The 'Overshadowed' Killer: pandemic influenza in World War I (5 items)

A General Discussion of the Epidemiology of Influenza By Major Greenwood

[Document](#) | Essential | Primary text

America's forgotten pandemic: the influenza of 1918 - Alfred W. Crosby, c2003

[Book](#) | Recommended

The Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918-19: new perspectives - H. Phillips, David Killingray, 2003

[Book](#) | Recommended | Niall Johnson, 'The Overshadowed Killer: Influenza in Britain in 1918-19',), pp. 132-54.

Living with enza: the forgotten story of Britain and the great flu pandemic of 1918 - Mark Honigsbaum, 2009

[Book](#) | Essential

Regulating the 1918-19 Pandemic: Flu, Stoicism and the Northcliffe Press - Mark Honigsbaum, 2013

Article

Week 8: Retreat from Moscow: typhus and le Grande Armée (microbial defenders part II). (5 items)

The Diary of a Napoleonic Foot Soldier by Jakob Walter, M. Raef (Ed.)

Webpage | Primary text

Memoirs of Sergeant Bourgogne, 1812-1813; : Bourgogne, Adrien Jean Baptiste François, 1785-1867 : Free Download & Streaming : Internet Archive

Webpage | Primary text

Disease and history - Frederick Fox Cartwright, Michael D. Biddiss, 1991, c1972

Book | Chapter Five, 'General Napoleon and General Typhus', pp. 83-107.

Napoleon's doctors: the medical services of the Grande Armée - Martin R. Howard, 2006

Book

Rats, lice, and history - Hans Zinsser, c2008

Book

Week 3: The Black Death: demographic deficits. (9 items)

The Black Death: the great mortality of 1348-1350 : a brief history with documents - John Aberth, c2005

Book | Essential | Primary text. Chapt 4. Societal and Economic Impact, pp. 67-93, esp. Giovanni Boccaccio, "Introduction to the Decameron"; Ahmad Al-Maqrizi, "A History of the Ayyubis and Mamluks."

The black death in England - Mark Ormrod, Phillip G. Lindley, 1996

Book | Chapt. 1. Jim Bolton, "'The world upside down: plague as an agent of economic and social change,"pp. 17-79.

ENGLAND IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BLACK DEATH - John Hatcher, 1994

Article

From the brink of the apocalypse: confronting famine, war, plague, and death in the later Middle Ages - John Aberth, 2010

Book

The Black Death: an intimate history - John Hatcher, 2008

Book | Optional | This is a historian's "imagining" of first-hand experiences of the Black Death. It is most definitely not a primary text, but to the extent that it is based on primary documents and informed by Hatcher's deep knowledge of the period it is worth reading.

The Black Death, 1346-1353: the complete history - Ole Jørgen Benedictow, 2004

Book

The black death transformed: disease and culture in early Renaissance Europe - Samuel Kline Cohn, 2002

[Book](#)

The black death: a chronicle of the plague compiled from contemporary sources - Johannes Nohl, 1961

[Book](#)

The impact of plague in Tudor and Stuart England - Paul Slack, 1990, c1985

[Book](#)

Week 2: Plague and the Fall of Athens. (5 items)

History of the Peloponnesian War - Thucydides, 2005, 2014-08-22

[Webpage](#) | **Essential** | Primary text

Epidemics and Ideas: Essays on the Historical Perception of Pestilence - T. O. Ranger, Paul Slack, 1992

[Book](#) | **Essential** | James Longrigg, 'Epidemic, Ideas and Classical Athenian Society', pp. 21-44

How Hippocrates Cured the Plague - Rubin Pinault, Jody, Jan 1, 1986

[Article](#) | **Recommended**

Plague and the end of antiquity: the pandemic of 541-750 - Lester K. Little, 2007

[Book](#) | **Optional** | Chapt 2. Jo N. Hays, "Historians and Epidemics: Simple Questions, Complex Answers," pp. 33-59.

Thucydides - W. Robert Connor, c1984

[Book](#) | **Optional**

Week 5: The fall of the Inca Empire (disease and conquest part II). (7 items)

Born to die - Library Discovery

[Webpage](#) | **Essential** | Please read pp. 72-83, 'Tawantisuyu', and pp. 110-133, 'Widespread influenza and smallpox.'

Narrative of the Incas - Juan de Betanzos, Roland Hamilton, Dana Buchanan

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

Suma y narracion de los Incas, que los indios llamaron Capaccuna, que fueron señores de la ciudad del Cuzco y de todo lo á ella sujeto - Betanzos, Juan de, -1576

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

The second part of the Chronicle of Peru : Cieza de Leo

n, Pedro de, 1518-1554 : Free Download & Streaming : Internet Archive

[Webpage](#) | **Essential** | Before seminar please read and print off Chapter LXVIII, How

Huayna Capac returned to Quito, pp. 220-228 (corresponding to pp. 288-319 of pdf)

Advanced Andeans Backward Europeans / David Cahill

[Webpage](#) | Recommended

Relation of the discovery and the conquest of the kingdoms of Peru. Translated into English and annotated by Philip Ainsworth Means : Pizarro, Pedro : Free Download & Streaming : Internet Archive

[Webpage](#) | Optional

Virgin Soils Revisited - David S. Jones, 2003-10-01

[Article](#)

Week 4: The fall of the Aztec empire (disease and conquest part I). (9 items)

Conquest: Montezuma, Cortés, and the fall of old Mexico - Hugh Thomas, 1995, c1993

[Book](#) | Recommended

The Conquest of New Spain By Diaz Del Castillo, Berna

[Webpage](#) | Recommended | Primary text

Virgin Soil Epidemics as a Factor in the Aboriginal Depopulation in America - Alfred W. Crosby, 1976-04

[Article](#) | Essential

The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492 - Alfred W. Crosby

[Book](#) | Essential

The broken spears : the Aztec account of the...

[Webpage](#) | Optional

Historia general de las cosas de Nueva España - Library Discovery

[Webpage](#) | Optional

General History of the Things of New Spain by Fray Bernardino de Sahagún: The Florentine Codex. Book XII: The Conquest of Mexico

[Article](#) | Recommended

Aztec and Mayan accounts of smallpox in Mexico - primary documents

[Webpage](#) | Essential

Revising the Conquest of Mexico: Smallpox, Sources, and Populations - Francis J. Brooks, 1993-22

[Article](#) | Recommended

Week 9: Cholera, Revolution, and Social Change. (7 items)

EPIDEMICS AND REVOLUTIONS: CHOLERA IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE - Richard J. Evans, 1988

Article | Essential

The burdens of disease: epidemics and human response in western history - J. N. Hays, c2009

Book | Essential | 'Cholera and Sanitation', pp. 135-154.

Explaining epidemics and other studies in the history of medicine - C. E. Rosenberg, 1992

Book | Recommended | Read Chapter 6, 'Cholera in nineteenth century Europe: a tool for social and economic analysis', pp. 109-121.

The cholera years: the United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866 - Rosenberg, Charles E., 1962

Book | Recommended

Death in Hamburg: society and politics in the cholera years 1830-1910 - R. J. Evans, 1990

Book | Optional | Chapter 5, Dimensions of inequality, pp. 403-15; Chapter 6, Remaking a world: The Limits of Compassion, pp. 470-90; Poverty and the state. pp. 508-38.

"Knocking out the Cholera": Cholera, Class, and Quarantines in New York City, 1892 - Markel, Howard, Fall 1995

Article | Optional

Disease and civilization: the cholera in Paris, 1832 - François Delaporte, c1986

Book | Optional

Week 6: Haiti and yellow fever (microbial defenders part I) (7 items)

The black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo revolution - C. L. R. James, James Walvin, 2001

Book | Essential

Mosquito empires: ecology and war in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914 - John Robert McNeill, American Council of Learned Societies, 2010

Book | Essential | Read Chapter 7: 'Revolutionary Fevers, 1790-1898: Haiti, New Granada, and Cuba', pp. 235-265.

Liberte, Egalite, Esclavage : French Revolutionary Ideals and the Failure of the Leclerc Expedition to Saint-Domingue - Philippe R. Girard, 2005

Article | Recommended

The making of Haiti: the Saint Domingue revolution from below - Fick, Carolyn E., 1947-, c1990.

Book | Recommended

The 1802 Saint-Domingue Yellow Fever epidemic and the Louisiana purchase - Marr, John S, 2013-01-01

Article | Optional

Avengers of the New World: the story of the Haitian Revolution - Dubois, Laurent, 1971-, 2005.

Book | Optional

Marcus Rainsford, *An Historical Account of the Black Empire of Hayti: Comprehending a View of the Principal Transactions in the Revolution of Saint Domingo: with Its Ancient and Modern State*

Book | **Optional** | This is an eyewitness account of the Haitian wars of independence told by a former British soldier and admirer of L'Ouverture who was resident on St Domingue throughout the skirmishes. For L'Ouverture's resistance to Napoleon and Dessalines' victory over the French see pp. 264-357.

Week 11. Polio in Syria: war as a disease amplifier (8 items)

Syria's Polio Epidemic: The Suppressed Truth - Annie Sparrow

Book

Book

Book

Book | Jessica T. Mathews

Book

Book

Book

Book | Avishai Margalit

Book

Book

Book

Book | Jerome Groopman

Book

Book

Book

Book | George B. Stauffer

Book

Book

Book | Ingrid D. Rowland

Book

Book

Book | Claire Messud

Book

Book

Book | Robert Cottrell

Book

Book

Book | Ahmed Rashid

Book

Book

Book | Riccardo Manzotti and Tim Park

Article | **Essential**

Contagion and chaos: disease, ecology, and national security in the era of globalization -
Andrew T. Price-Smith, Andrew T. Price-Smith, c2009

Book | **Essential** | Andrew T. Price-Smith, 'War as a Disease Amplifier'

Syria: The Other Threat - Annie Sparrow

□□□□

□□□□□

□□

□□ David Luban

□□□□

□□□

□□□□

□□□□□

□□

□□ Annie Sparrow

□□□□

□□□

□□□□

□□□□□

□□

□□ Annie Sparrow

□□□□

□□□

□□□

□□

□□ Sylvain Cypel

□□□

□□

□□ J. Hoberman

□□□

□□

□□ Ariel Dorfman

□□□

□□

□□ Francine Prose

□□□

□□

□□ Bruce Ackerman

□□□□□

□□□□□

□□

□□ Garry Wills

□□□□□

□□□□□

□□

□□Laura Kipnis□□□

□□□□□

□□□□□

□□

□□Ferdinand Mount□□□

□□□□□

□□□□□

□□

□□Julian Bell□□□

□□□□□

□□□□□

□□

□□Pankaj Mishra

[Article](#) | Recommended

War and Infectious Diseases: Challenges of the Syrian Civil War - Sima L. Sharara, Souha S. Kanj, 2014-11-13

[Article](#) | Recommended

Civil war, contested sovereignty and the limits of global health partnerships: A case study of the Syrian polio outbreak in 2013 - Jonathan Kennedy, Domna Michailidou, 2017-06

[Article](#) | Recommended

Infectious diseases: emergence and re-emergence : a geographical analysis

[Book](#) | Recommended | Free E-book. Download Part II, Chapter 8: 'Disease Amplifiers: Wars and conflicts in the post-1945 era', pp. 428-482

Coffee with Polio Experts: Chris Maher, WHO - YouTube

[Audio-visual document](#)

Saving Kids From Polio in Islamic State Territory | National Geographic - YouTube

[Audio-visual document](#)

Week 12. Ebola in West Africa: war, securitisation and neglect (4 items)

The coming plague: newly emerging diseases in a world out of balance - Laurie Garrett, 1996

[Book](#) | Searching for Solutions: preparedness, surveillance, and the new understanding' , pp 592-598

Between Securitisation and Neglect: Managing Ebola at the Borders of Global Health -

Mark Honigsbaum, 2017-04

[Article](#)

The Scale Politics of Emerging Diseases - Nicholas B. King, 2004

[Article](#)

The Return of Infectious Disease - Laurie Garrett

[Article](#)

Week 1. Infectious Narratives: an introduction (5 items)

Rats, lice, and history - Hans Zinsser, c2008

[Book](#) | **Essential** | Chapter 1, 'In the nature of an explanation and an apology,' pp. 3-14.

Plagues and peoples - W. H. McNeill, 1979

[Book](#) | **Essential** | especially 'Introduction' and Chapter 5, 'Transoceanic exchanges, 1500-1700.'

Of war and epidemics: unnatural couplings, problematic conceptions - Cooter, Roger R, 2003-01-08

[Article](#) | **Recommended**

The burdens of disease: epidemics and human response in western history - J. N. Hays, c2009

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

"A Germ of an Idea" - profile of William McNeill and his book, Plagues and Peoples

[Webpage](#) | This is a good introduction to William McNeill and his book, Plagues and Peoples.