

21H.000: The History of Now

Plagues and Pandemics Edition

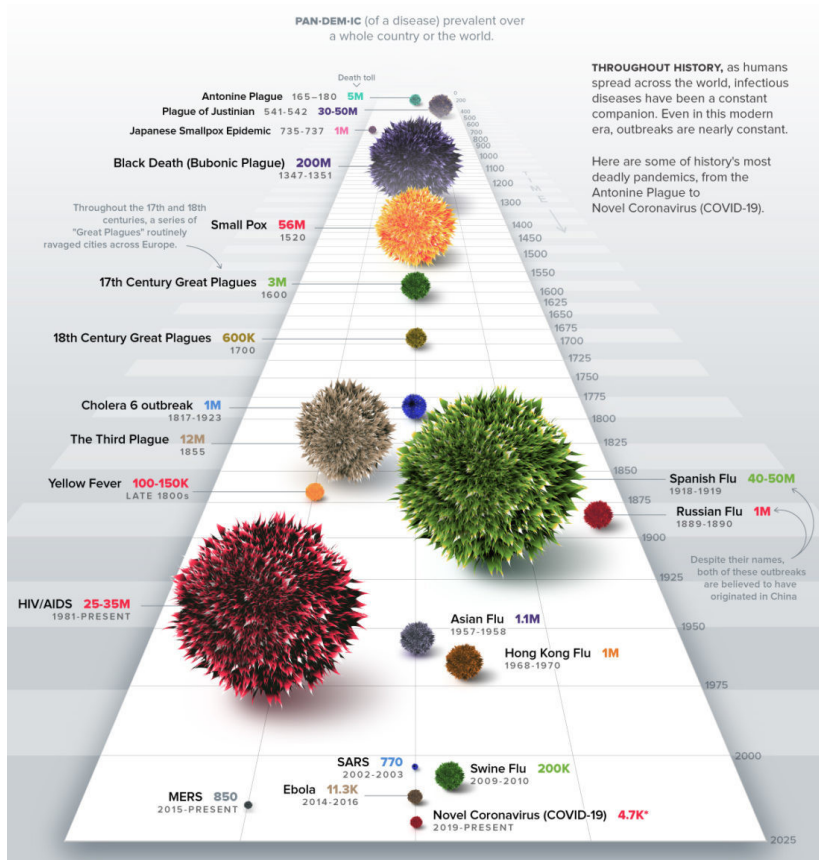


Image: Visual Capitalist, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/a-visual-history-of-pandemics>

Meeting Time: Fridays, 2-3pm

Register in advance for each session, [HERE](#)

This class exposes students to the study of history for its own sake and also for a deeper understanding of the present and the future. We explore current events in a historical perspective from the vantage point of a series of MIT and guest speakers discussing their research in the context of current national and global events. For Fall 2020, the course will focus on the history of infectious disease. We will look transnationally and across discipline at how plagues and pandemics have made an impact on human and non-human history. The course will have a roundtable format, meeting for one-hour sessions each week with brief presentations by the invited speakers followed by Q&A with enrolled students. The course will also be broadcast live as a webinar each week for the benefit of interested members of the larger MIT community and the public. A list of short, optional readings related to each week's sessions is available upon request. Please contact kalopes@mit.edu if you would like more information.

MIT Faculty Coordinators/Moderators: Sana Aiyar (History), Dwai Bannerjee (STS), Kate Brown (STS), Malick Ghachem (History), and Elizabeth Wood (History)

Fall 2020 Schedule of Meetings

September 11: What is a "Pandemic"?

Kavita Sivaramakrishnan, Columbia University
Sylvia Hood Washington, Environmental Health Research Associates, LLC

September 18: Race and Pandemics

Adia Benton, Northwestern University
Kathryn Olivarius, Stanford University

October 2: Cities and the Plague

Cindy Ermus, University of Texas at San Antonio
Martin Melosi, University of Houston

October 9: Immigration and Contagion

Nayan Shah, University of Southern California
Natalia Molina, University of Southern California

October 23: Demography and Biopower

Anne McCants, MIT
John Brown, Clark University

October 30: Public Health, Biopower, and Inequality

Carlo Caduff, King's College London
Amy Moran-Thomas, MIT

November 13: Plants and Plagues

Jean Beagle Ristaino, North Carolina State University
John McNeill, Georgetown University
Tristan Brown, MIT

November 20: Sovereignties, Plagues, and Policing

Mary Augusta Brazelton, University of Cambridge
Laura Spinney, independent writer and science journalist

December 4: Premodern Pandemics

Nükhet Varlik, University of South Carolina
Michael McCormick, Harvard University (tentative)