At the same time that medical research has made great breakthroughs in recent years in grasping the mechanisms that underlie a range of pathologies, people have become alarmed worldwide with the threat from infectious diseases. While such “new” diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, and Hanta virus have become public concerns, “old” killers that many public health practitioners had assumed no longer posed much of a threat—such as tuberculosis, cholera, and malaria—have become more widespread and have, in some cases, developed lethal new strains. The terribly unequal distribution of some of these diseases, both within and between nation-states, has rendered visible the way that differences of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and nation affect who gets sick and what sort of medical treatment is available.

This course traces the social life of health and disease in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on a global basis. The focus will be both on inequities in morbidity and mortality and access to health care as well as on how individuals and populations are socially constructed vis-à-vis particular diseases—as victims, carriers, and members of an “at risk group,” and the like. Foci will include the impact of medicine and public health on colonialism, immigration, social and economic policy, and the present global circulation of capital, culture, people, and germs. Recent work that presents health and disease as central to discussions of citizenship, human rights, and social justice are included.

Requirements:

(1) Careful preparation of readings and participation in class discussions. Students are responsible on examinations for lecture material and all readings, even when they are not directly covered in class. Readings should be completed before coming to class.

(2) Mid-term examination, in class.

(3) A five-page essay on an assigned topic; that bridges the readings with contemporary issues in medicine, public health, and race; due in the eighth week.

(4) A final examination (that will focus primarily on the second half of the class, but will ask students to integrate the perspectives offered by the authors of readings covered in the first half).

Grading: The midterm will count toward 35 percent of the final grade, the essay will count for 25 percent, and the final exam the other 40 percent. Attendance is obligatory, and final grades will be lowered in cases of repeated absences. Contributions to class discussion will be considered in deciding grades at the margin.
Required texts (available at Groundwork):


**Reader:** Available from the UCSD Library through E-Reserves

**Recommended Readings:** These sources are provided to give students who would like to deepen their knowledge of a particular area some suggested sources. *These readings are not required, and they will not appear on exams.*
Schedule of meetings and topics:

23 September

1. Introduction: Racializing Disease and Infecting Race
   Reading:

28-30 September

2. Infectious Inequalities: Is Access to Health Care a Human Right?
   Reading:
   Farmer, Pathologies of Power, Introduction, chap. 1-2, 4-6, 8-9
   Recommended Readings:

5-7 October

   Reading:
   Kraut, Silent Travelers, Intro, 31-77, 105-35, 166-96, 232-72
   Recommended readings:

12-14 October

4. Colonialism as Medical Salvation: Empire, Epidemics, and Subalterns in 19th Century India
   Reading:
   Arnold, Colonizing the Body, pp. 1-60, 116-159, 200-294
   Recommended reading:

12-19 October

5. Colonialism, Gender, and the Politics of Sterilization in Puerto Rico

Reading:
Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire*

Film and discussion: *La operación*

Recommended reading:


21 October

Midterm examination

26 October

6. The Wages of Race: Environmental Racism and Social Justice

Readings:


Recommended Readings:


28 October – 2 November

7. Health, Race, Sexuality: Biopolitical Foundations of Immigration Policy

Reading:
Shah, *Contagious Divides*, chap 1-5, 7-8

Recommended Readings:

4-9 November

8. Medical Resistance in the United States: Social Movements and Scientific Authority

Reading:

Recommended Readings:

11 November: no class

16-18 November

8. Gender, Culture, and Everyday Death: “Bad Mothers,” Disposable Bodies, and Other Modern Artifacts

Readings:

Recommended readings:
23-30 November

**Medical Immutable Mobiles: How Representations of Unsanitary Subjects Travel Across Borders**

Reading:

Briggs with Mantini-Briggs, *Stories in the Time of Cholera*, Introduction, chap 1, 4-6, 9-13

Recommended Readings:


Cohen, Lawrence. *No Aging in India: Alzheimer's, the Bad Family, and Other Modern Things*. Berkeley: University of California.


2 December

**Wrap up and discussion**

7 December 2004, Tuesday, 11:30-2:30

**Final Examination**