

AMST 3253 (HYBRID COURSE)

GLOBALIZATION & AMERICAN CULTURE (H CREDIT)

(PANDEMICS PAST AND PRESENT)

Spring 2021 (Tuesday, 1:40-4:20 pm)

Dr. David Gray



The bubonic plague, the Spanish Flu, the avian flu, and Covid-19: how can we understand these and other pandemics through the lens of globalization?

This course examines pandemics in the context of globalization from 1900 to the present. How did Americans—public health officials, medical professionals, journalists, and ordinary members of the public—respond to pandemics during particular historical moments? How did responses to pandemics change over time? And, what can we learn from previous experiences? Drawing on a range of texts—cultural histories, a novel, journalism, photographs, cartoons, and films—you will explore pandemics from the bubonic plague outbreaks of the late 19th and early 20th centuries through to Covid-19. Our investigation will take place within the larger context of globalization. By examining the relationships between pandemics and developments in immigration, urbanization, medicine, mass culture, and war, we will trace the strange history of pandemics.

Required texts include: Marilyn Chase, *The Barbary Plague: The Black Death in Victorian San Francisco*; Catharine Arnold, *Pandemic 1918: Eyewitness Accounts from the Greatest Medical Holocaust in Modern History*; Mike Davis, *The Monster Enters: COVID-19, Avian Flu and the Plagues of Capitalism*; Lawrence Wright, *The End of October* and a selection of other readings.

For more information e-mail Dr. David Gray at david.gray11@okstate.edu