Histories of Global Health

Instructor: Kevin Ko

4 credits
ID
lec (TTH 1-2:30 pm) + dis


From pressing fears of the spread of new and old pandemics to campaigns for global access to healthcare and clean water, issues of global health have played a prominent role in our understanding and experience of the contemporary world. Despite their sense of newness, however, experiences of global health have deeply layered pasts that can both enrich and trouble our understanding of current problems.

This course explores the topic of global health from a variety of historical perspectives: social, political, cultural, economic, ecological, technological, and ethical, to name a few. Throughout the course, we examine the topic of global health not merely as a taken-for-granted biomedical or “technical” problem but also as a broad cluster of interconnected themes from which to explore how people have understood and interacted with other people, organisms, and environments across history on a global scale.