This course will explore the place of disease in American society from 1880 to the present, with special attention to a selected group of major disease categories. These include influenza, bacterial infections (including pneumonia, tuberculosis, streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, and meningitis), diabetes, cancer, venereal diseases, and HIV/AIDS. In each case we will give attention to the natural history of the disease, to the ways in which it is framed or understood by American society, and to the roles of multiple actors including the medical and nursing professions, scientists, public health officials, health activists, and patients and patient-advocacy organizations. General themes will include the increasing prominence, effectiveness, and limitations of scientific medicine, and the nature and impact of the pharmaceutical revolution.