We will explore the intimate relationships between infectious diseases and humans. Students will examine the biology of influential diseases and the biological principles that allow diseases to influence human events. The course uses scientific explanations and case studies to investigate the effects of diseases on human society. Each disease will be examined from different angles including its natural history, pathogenicity, historical impacts, and appropriate interventions. The diseases chosen reflect plagues that have occurred throughout history, especially those that have important lessons for the fields of microbiology or public health.