Plagues and Peoples

“The Triumph of Death”
By Pieter Bruegel the Elder (painted c. 1562)
Lecture 1

Background: Epidemics and their Causes
INTRODUCTION

• Relationship between humans & our pathogens
  – Where did our pathogens come from?
  – Where will new plague come from?

• Effects of devastating “plagues”
  – On our history
  – On our DNA

• Why, when, where, and how?

• Consequences of specific plagues

• What was it like?
Lecture 2
Epidemics in Early Man & Ancient Civilizations

Man the Hunter (above)
From the Smithsonian

Justinian, Emperor of Roman Empire
During Bubonic Plague of 542 A.D. (left)
From mural at Ravenna, Italy
Lecture 3-The Black Death (1346-1350)

From *Disease: The Extraordinary Stories behind History’s Deadliest Killers*, by Mary Dobson, 2007

Plague devastating Florence in 1348;
Lecture 4-The Amerindians & European Conquest

How were a Few Hundred Spaniards Able to Conquer Militaristic Civilizations of Millions?
Lecture 5 - Cholera & Yellow Fever (19th century); Influenza (1918-1919)
Lecture 6-HIV & Emerging Diseases

HIV from chimps

Nipah virus from bats
Overall Reference


• Premise:
  – Evolving relationships between humans & our pathogens, role of ecology & human migrations
  – Central role of devastating disease (esp “new disease”) outbreaks in shaping human history
  – Profound effects on political, demographic, psychological aspects
Lecture 1 Reference

Lecture 2 Reference

Lecture 3 Reference

Lecture 4 References

Lecture 4 References

Lecture 5 References

Lecture 5 References

Lecture 5 References

Lecture 6 Reference