From coverage of the “war on AIDS” to films about contagion and pandemics, we are surrounded by images of health and sickness. How do pictures, movies, and other literature about disease shape the way we visualize an unseen threat? How do stories about plagues and contagion express anxieties about things we cannot control? Learn about disease through the study of literature and the arts during the last two centuries of Northern European and United States history. Explore stereotypes about health and appearance, and our desires for an orderly world. Read literature that traces the history of diseases such as polio, tuberculosis, syphilis, and more. Taught in English.