

Enlightenment
Week 3 Science and Religion
October 12th 2015

Daniel Defoe: Journal of the Plague Year

How do science and religion conflict in tension?
-Catastrophic events such as plagues and earthquakes
^Showed the limitations of the human reason

Daniel Defoe

-dissenter (didn't belong to the standard church and such wasn't aloud to attend university or take a civil job - lawyer)
-novelist

Genre

-Presents itself as an eyewitness account and is written by a resident of the citizen. Presents itself as a personal account but is written long after the events and incorporates parts of genre as well as historical record for context.

Pit scene is a representation of the book and time. What are the limits of human understanding and the degree we can pass the understanding to others. Light can penetrate yet not the disease.

People had no understanding of the disease or how people became infected. "A walking destroyer" terrifying because symptoms did not always present themselves.

A text built around a confrontation.

Charles II was a libertine, Mary Monarch, court notorious for entertainment and frivolities. Brought back fashion and theater. Lax morality.

What does the plague mean?

is the plague a form of divine retribution or is it a natural process with material causes that can be understood with science? Bible represents plague as God's punishment on his sinful people. God's relationship with the jews. Plague as God's direct response to sin. Early on Defoe focuses on this as the causation. Main character resists superstition (renouncing the angel in the sky). If its divine there is nothing to do about it. If the causes are natural, they can be observed and the effects can be detained. H.F. torn between both sides. H.F. is a religious and a god fearing man but understands that terrible things can be natural calamities. Religious but observer.