Description: Medical history includes not only doctors and discoveries, but people in sickness and in health as well. From devastating epidemics to the hidden suffering of hunger, health problems both affected and reflected changes in society and culture. This course will study four different eras, from before colonization to the present, exploring such questions as:

- How living and working conditions affected health.
- How ethics, politics, and economics influenced health policies and medical decisions.
- What changing health problems affected diverse social groups including Native Americans, African Americans, women, and immigrants.
- How the meaning of concepts like “health” and “disease” changed.
- How medical innovations spread and affected health.
- How the organization and power of the healing professions changed.

We will focus on American history but with significant transnational and global connections and contrasts. Reading assignments will range from modern histories to old medical journals, motion pictures, and newspapers.