

History of American Medicine: Race, Class, Gender, and Science Fall 2021

Seats still available!



History of American Medicine: Race, Class, Gender, and Science
Hilary Coulson

WST3703– Section 37HM – Class #27657 —MWF3

This course is an overview of the development and professionalization of medicine in America from the Colonial period through the present. In this class we will investigate the development of medical treatments with a special focus on how gender, race, class, and geography impacted research, treatments, and outcomes for various populations. This course draws on historical inquiry to interrogate how medical authority was established, legitimized, and institutionalized to the enormous and expensive industry it is today. In doing so, we will analyze the groups of Americans left out of this process and how their knowledge and experience was delegitimized. Moreover, this course explores medical experimentation, pseudoscience, and government policies enacted to dictate medical care over the ages. In taking this class, be prepared for reading, lecture, and focused discussion on topics like women's health including abortion, labor and birth, slavery and the development of modern medicine, childhood illness and mortality, medical malpractice, virus outbreaks, poverty, eugenics, mental health treatment, as well as experimental drugs and therapeutics over the centuries.

WST: SS/HUM/G&S
Counts for HDS Tier 1/Category B