

FREN/COLT 372gp

MEDICINE, HEALTH & THE BODY IN LITERATURE & CULTURE (GE-B, GE-H)

SPRING 2024

Mon/Weds, 12-1:20

Literature about illness and/or medicine often explores the meeting place of science and culture, along with shifting understandings of patient and doctor, health and illness, body and mind. In this class, we will use literature and film to explore how medicine and medical texts impact and are impacted by the particular sociopolitical and cultural contexts from which they emerge. Medical writings are read as a complement to literary ones whose authors engage with medical and scientific developments in implicit and explicit ways. Explored, for example, will be the roles that the medical ideas of observation, dissection, and germ theory played for writers and/or filmmakers, personally and aesthetically. Foregrounding medicine and empire and focusing our inquiries primarily on works from the Global South, we will explore the complex intersections of medicine, race, gender, sexuality, and national belonging. We will read and view works by Albert Camus, Maryse Condé, Tsitsi Dangaremba, Malick Fall, Bassek Ba Khobio, and Mohammed Lakhdar-Hamini., among others. Medical writings will include Vesalius, Paré, Charcot, Pasteur and Fanon. Taught in English.



This course counts for French,
COLT, GE-B & GE-H

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