

FREN/COLT 272gp

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

FALL 2025

Tues/Thurs, 12:30-1:50

In this class, students will explore the intersections of medicine, science and culture both inside and outside the classroom.

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. In lieu of some of our in-classroom time, we will visit the USC Fisher Museum, the USC ONE Archives, USC Libraries, and CAAM (all within walking distance!).

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. Selected materials include works by Albert Camus, Maryse Condé, Tsitsi Dangaremba, Bassek Ba Khobio, and Mohammed Lakhdar-Hamini., among others. Medical writings will include Vesalius, Paré, Charcot, Pasteur and Fanon.



This course is taught in English (no prior experience with French required) and counts for GE-B & GE-H

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