

# Courses in Health and Society

The anthropologist, Mary Douglas, observed that “the human body is always treated as an image of society and there can be no natural way of considering the body that does not involve at the same time a social dimension.” Similarly, how we perceive our bodies, how they are treated by the health-care system, how medicine and health care shape how we see ourselves are critical questions we must all face. Courses in health and society include ones that examine the workings of the human body and mind and ones that take a broad look at the relationship between health and larger cultural and societal issues. These courses encourage students to confront the ethical, social, and political issues in the creation of health and science, and they allow students to consider the broad issues that link the body to the body politic. They offer valuable perspectives to students planning careers in the health field and benefit anyone confronting health care in today’s complex world.

Although there is no departmental or interdepartmental major in Health Studies, these courses enrich and enlarge concentrations in a variety of disciplines. They also demonstrate how different disciplines contribute to understanding a topic (health) and an institution (the health-care system) that affect all our lives. Students who plan to apply for admission to medical school should consult the section on Preparation for Medical School in this catalogue.

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**AFR 297** Medical Anthropology: A Comparative Study of Healing Systems

**AFR 340** Seminar. Topics in African-American History. Topic for 2009-10: Health, Medical Professionals, and the Body in the African Diaspora

**ANTH 238** The Vulnerable Body: Anthropological Understandings

**ANTH 251** Cultures of Cancer

**ANTH 314** Human Biology and Society

**BISC 105** Stem Cells: A New Frontier in Biomedicine

**BISC 107** Biotechnology

**BISC 109** Human Biology with Laboratory

**BISC 209** Microbiology with Laboratory

**BISC 302** Animal Physiology with Laboratory

**BISC 331** Seminar. Cancer Genomics

**BISC 334** The Biology of Stem Cells

**CPLT 334** Literature and Medicine

**ECON 232** Health Economics

**FREN 327** A Fascination with Bodies:  
The Doctor’s Malady

**NEUR 100** Brain, Behavior, and Cognition:  
An Introduction to Neuroscience

**NEUR 320** Vision and Art: Physics, Physiology, Perception, and Practice with Laboratory

**PE 205** Sports Medicine

**PHIL 249** Medical Ethics

**POL1 317** Health Politics and Policy

**POL1 334** Disability in American Society: Politics, Policy, and Law

**PSYC 208** Adolescence

**PSYC 219** Biological Psychology

**PSYC 308** Systems of Psychotherapy

**PSYC 318** Seminar. Brain and Behavior

**SOC 202** Introduction to Human Rights

**SOC 275** The Sociology of the Body

**SOC 314** Medical Sociology and Social Epidemiology

**WGST 212** Feminist Bioethics

**WGST 214** Women, Reproduction, and Health

**WGST 220** American Health-Care History in Gender, Race, and Class Perspective

**WGST 312** Capstone Seminar. Feminist Inquiry. Topic for 2009-10: Global Feminism

**WGST 321** Seminar. Gender Justice and Health Policy