This course analyzes texts and visual art about disease from the 19th to the 21st century, including patient memoir, graphic memoir, drama, film, poetry, photography, medical textbooks and anatomical illustrations. These works allow us to think about how Western medicine and culture conceptualizes bodies, disease and health in different time periods, and how social categories of gender, race and class are implicit in these concepts. Specifically, we will focus on four themes and trace historical changes: anatomical and medical illustration of bodies (from Vesalius to Gunter von Hagens), definitions of mental illness (from hysteria to environmental illness), approaches to pain and dying, and responses to old and new plagues (from syphilis to cancer).

**GE credit: Arts & Humanities, World Cultures and Writing Experience**

**No Prerequisites**

**No textbook required**

For questions please contact: kherges@ucdavis.edu