**HMED 396: Special Topics: Women, Gender, and Medicine**

**T/Th 9:30-10:45am Andrews 114**

**Dr. Catherine Medici-Thiemann**

**Course Description**

Medicine has frequently been seen as objective field of scientific inquiry, discovery, and progress. However, many historical, social, and cultural factors influence medicine. In this interdisciplinary course, we will examine these factors through the lens of the women and gender.

During this course, we explore the way medicine has thought about the body theoretically and physically, examining the ways that understandings of sex and gender influence medical practices and treatment. We will then investigate two aspects of medicine in detail. We will consider reproductive issues, as women’s physiological ability to bear children shapes their medical reality. We will also study women’s pain and chronic illness. Chronic illnesses affect women at a much higher rate than men while women’s pain has been treated and regarded in gendered terms. The course mostly focuses on the US, with some international perspectives.

Throughout the course, we will follow the themes of agency and resistance, looking for how have women express agency in their medical care and resisted practices, policies, and laws detrimental to women. We will also consider issues of intersectionality, the ways that age, race, class, sexuality, and disability intersect with gender to affect medicine and health.

**Required Texts and Materials**

Maya Dusenberry, *Doing Harm: the Truth about How Bad Medicine and Lazy Science Leave Women Dismissed, Misdiagnosed, and Sick* (New York: Harper One, 2018)

Articles, videos, links, accessible via our course site.