COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will explore how art and visual culture has presented, represented, and invited critiques about increasingly medicalized modern bodies. We will be concerned with how art responded to and at times promoted rapid change in the field of modern medicine, with the proliferation of visual cultures of medicine especially in the realm of photography and film, with the relationships between the professionalization of medicine and the patronage of modern art, and above all with how art and visual culture have constructed and deconstructed modern subjectivity in relation to the medicalization of modern life. The course focuses on modernity primarily in Europe and North America, c. 1800 to c. 1950, but will range both geographically and temporally. Over the term, we will be particularly concerned with art’s engagement with medical modernity’s gendered, queer, trans, and racialized bodies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & FORMAT:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available during the first class. Each class will be primarily structured as a seminar discussion. There will be field trips to the Museum of Health Care, and possibly to Toronto. Regular and attentive attendance is expected. Assignments will include seminar presentations, an annotated bibliography and proposal assignment, and a final research proposal paper or project.