This course is designed to offer a fundamental knowledge of American medical history and a chance to think about the role and the place of medicine and health in our society. The course presupposes no prior knowledge of medicine or medical history and does not involve hard science. The course does presuppose a basic prior knowledge of American history in general, and does presuppose a willingness to read thoroughly in areas that might not be immediately familiar. The readings will, however, be immediately fascinating! The material is riveting. This course will also help you deal with the great debates currently underway over the future of health care in the United States.