Medical anthropology includes the study of health, illness, and healing from a cross-cultural perspective. The course integrates cultural and biological approaches to better understand how health, illness, and healing practices are understood and engaged with in diverse cultural contexts. We will explore how medical anthropologists use theoretical and methodological approaches that are distinct from those of Western biomedicine to gain insight into health and illness, and their causes and consequences. Topics covered by this course include the influence of cultural beliefs on health- and illness-related behaviors, cultural ideas about the body, social and environmental causes of illness, the effects of poverty on health, medical systems as social systems, cultural clashes and ethical issues in diagnosis, health care delivery and health policy, and stress and other socio-cultural contributors to gender and ethnic/racial health disparities in the United States. This course aims to explore these issues by presenting fundamental theoretical concepts within medical anthropology and examining these ideas with reference to specific ethnographic examples.