Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Sara DiCaglio
Course: ENGL 342
Title: The Rhetoric of Gender and Health

Description: How are our bodies effected by the stories we tell about them? How do these stories—these rhetorical moments—intersect with constructions of gender, and what does that intersection have to do with our larger ideas of health? This course examines the intersection of gender and health as a rhetorical object—something that is crafted and shaped through specific choices in language, writing, and other modes of discourse. We will attend to a variety of texts and moments in cultural discourse, focusing on how communication, expertise, and knowledge work in the creation of ideas about health and gender. We will also attend to how those discourses and practices—and the care they are entangled with—intersect with factors such as race, sexuality, and class. Readings will examine a wide range of issues and include scholarly articles about the rhetoric of health and medicine, public health communications, health books, comics about health, and other relevant texts.

Proposed Readings: