This course will consider the study of health care systems and services and their relationship to women. Although we will consider the physiological basis of women's health, the primary focus will be on social and psychological factors controlling the treatment of women. To this end, the course will also include reference to the effect of both historical development and economic influences on such services. We will also relate the issues raised to our own experiences. Specifically, the following topics will be considered:

the history of women as patients and healers
the reproductive system
- menstruation and menopause
- contraception
- abortion
- hormones and hormone treatment
childbirth and mothering
sexuality
mental health
the drug industry
overweight and anorexia nervosa
occupational health
health and third world women
women as health care workers

Finally, we will discuss the women's health movement and prospects for the future.

Texts for the course will be:

- Boston Women's Health Collective, Our Bodies, Ourselves
- Dreifus, Claudia (ed.), Seizing our Bodies: the Politics of Women's Health
- Ehrenreich, Barbara and Dierdre English, For Her Own Good: 150 Years of the Experts' Advice to Women
- Smith, Dorothy E. and Sara David, Women Look at Psychiatry

Grading for the course will be based primarily on class participation, a seminar presentation and a final take-home exam.

Instructor: Debra Lewis, currently Legal Researcher at Vancouver Status of Women and Instructor of Women's Studies at Vancouver Community College. Co-author of Rape: the Price of Coercive Sexuality. Former abortion and contraceptive counsellor with ACCRA and Planned Parenthood of Toronto.

Classes held on Thursday evenings at Robson Square Media Centre, Room 3, 800 Robson Street, Vancouver