

# HEALTH ACTIVISM

GNDR\_ST 332 & 350-3

SPRING  
2023



In this course, we explore this tradition of radical health activism in the U.S. through a series of case studies from the 1960s to the present including: the establishment of community health centers during the Civil Rights Movement, Black Panther Party/Rainbow Coalition “survival programs,” feminist self-help clinics and underground abortion services pre-Roe v Wade, the 1970s anti-psychiatry movement, ACT UP and AIDS activism, reproductive rights activism post-Roe and ongoing efforts to secure reproductive rights/justice post-Dobbs. In each case, we make use of oral histories and interviews with movement participants and/or archival collections of activist materials in addition to recent scholarship to explore how activists frame the problem of ill health, contest contemporaneous scientific and medical models and protocols, interrogate ongoing “health disparities” and the ideological assumptions about gender, sexuality, race, and class that inform (and are often used to justify) these disparities, and build counter-institutions that enact a radical health politics. In our final unit (and throughout too), we explore the politics of the present, examine current movements that build on and carry forward this legacy of activism, and reflect on our collective experience(s) of a global pandemic.

Amy Partridge

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TTh 12:30-1:50pm  
Kresge Hall 2-420