



Medical History 919 / Spring 2012  
A History of Health Activism: Gender, Race, and  
Sexuality  
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They started free clinics. They took back the night. They lobbied Congress. They showed each other their cervixes. They practiced medicine without a license. They delivered babies. They insisted they weren't sick. They insisted they were. They shouted, they marched, they shopped, they struck, they sat.

Health activists, working both inside healthcare professions and outside them, have profoundly shaped medical institutions, workplace environments, research agendas, disease boundaries, treatment options, and medical accessibility. This course examines the history of health activism in the United States, paying particular attention to the place of race, gender, and sexuality in health movements.