The modern hospital is arguably the most complex and costly building type in existence today. In Chicago, 2010, three new hospital projects are under construction, each at a cost of more than one billion dollars. Hospitals are more and more becoming small cities, ever larger and more comprehensive. The result of this progression is often torturous, sprawling, anti-urban in character with no clear face, center or periphery. It is the intent of this course to become aware of the vectors that have created the modern hospital. Specifically, the historical progression of how they came into being; what the decision-making processes were that drove their creation; and the concepts, values and ideologies involved. Architects from leading healthcare architecture firms will visit the course and contribute to the investigation and discussion.

Part I: The Culture of Hospitals
Part II: Illness and Health
Part III: Imaging and the Body
Part IV: The City and the Hospital

Students will make one field trip to Chicago to tour the sites of two new hospitals under construction and the recently completed Prentice Women’s Hospital.

Students will be expected to read approximately fifty to one hundred pages per week. Deliverables for the course include:
1. Presentations of Reading and Discussion
2. In preparation for writing the final paper: Abstract, Bibliography and Outline
3. Final Paper: Topic of the paper will be chosen by the student guided by their interests in material related to the subject of the class.