Whether reading about Ebola in the Congo, HIV/AIDS in South Africa, or famine and child malnutrition in the Horn of Africa, the perception of Africa as a “diseased continent” is pervasive. Nevertheless, the genealogy of this stereotype has much shallower roots. This course strikes at the heart of our understanding of illness in African history by exploring how factors such as environmental change, trade and migration, colonial conquest, and globalization have shaped not only the disease environment but also the quest for therapy across the continent.