Debt is a burden that now seems to be everywhere. Debt impacts global systems and relationships. Debt is a central concern of national policy. Debt informs how people go about their daily lives. Debt is a central component of economic crisis. And, debt is also a contributing factor of human health and wellbeing. But what is debt and where does it come from? Is debt an economic necessity or a moral category? Why does debt so often devolve into crisis? And, who benefits and suffers along the way? This class will take an interdisciplinary approach to debt. It analyzes debt and economic crises as economic, social, political and cultural constructs with disproportionate adverse impacts on women and poor people. The course will investigate debt as a financial instrument for economic growth that produces wealth inequality. But, it will also attempt to make sense of the origins of debt as a social category that effects human health. To do so, the course will provide a long-historical view of how it is that debt became binding glue of the current global economy, and why this binding reproduces and depends on inequality for profits. In so doing, the course will investigate how debt works and how it shapes social life on multiple geographic scales: personal debt, household debt, national debt, and global debts.