Course Description

This class will offer a broad overview of concepts that are orienting research, clinical practice and public health programs and debates in the fields of genetics and genetic testing. Most of the work we will discuss concerns the U. S. experience.

Each day much is made in the press and other mainstream media about the “cutting edge” nature of this field. The focus is typically on the vast possibilities that genetic research holds for transforming our most basic understandings as to what it is to be human, the nature of disease and disability, the practice of medicine and law, the field of education – in essence society at its very core – and the complicated bioethical issues that accompany these developments.

This seminar will explore how sociocultural and political dynamics shape our understandings of genetic discoveries, and reciprocally, how genetic information is used to create conceptions of the self and society.

Requirements

1.  **Required text:**

   Wexler, Alice

   **Recommended texts:**

   Andrews, Lori B.

   Lupton, Deborah

   Rapp, Rayna
The books are on reserve at the Research Library and may be purchased from the Health Sciences Bookstore, 13-126 CHS (tel 825-7721). Additional readings have been compiled into a reading packet available at Course Reader Material, 1137 /1141 Westwood Blvd., 1 blocks north of Wilshire next to Rite-Aid, (tel.310/443-3303). Store hours Mon-Fri 9a.m.-6p.m., Sat 10a.m.-4p.m.

2. Class sessions will consist of a group discussion based on a book, book chapters, or articles. You are required to attend each class having read the assigned readings and being ready to discuss them. Please also come to class with a one to two paragraph abstract of each selection. Although individual abstracts will not be graded, they are to be handed in at the end of each class and will count toward your final grade.

Each abstract should be a succinct statement of the content of the reading, the questions it raised for you, and issues you would like discussed; you may comment critically on the reading if you wish. You may want to include in the abstract your thoughts on how the reading relates to research you've done, other interests you have, or other readings for the course. The length of each abstract will undoubtedly vary according to how engaging you found the selection.

Please also rate each reading on a scale of A - F on two criteria: how much you learned from the selection; how much you enjoyed reading it.

3. You are also required to prepare a paper of approximately 20 pages on a topic derived from the broad issues that orient the seminar. The paper may be based on field research, bibliographic work, or both. We prefer that the paper to be part of one of your ongoing research interests, if possible. Your paper should be typed, double spaced, and have left and right margins no less than 1". It should be proofread and corrected prior to submission. Use the style of the American Anthropologist or the Medical Anthropology Quarterly for footnotes and references. You will be required to present a brief synopsis of your research project during one of the last two weeks of class.

Please submit a one-paragraph description of your paper topic by April 17. Papers are due in class June 5. We would be happy to review and comment upon your paper=s first draft. If you have it to us by May 23, we will return it by May 30.

4. Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstracts and class discussion</th>
<th>50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We will give an Incomplete (I) only under truly exceptional circumstances. Late papers will be downgraded.
Syllabus

April 3  Introduction: overview of basic concepts, issues, orientations, assumptions. Discussion of course requirements and instructors’ and students’ expectations.

April 10 Perspectives on Science, Technology and Medicine

Jacob, Francois

Fox, Renee

Martin, Emily

Koenig, Barbara

Andrews, Lori B.

Recommended

Haraway, Donna

Martin, Paul A.
Reiser, Stanley Joel

Proctor, Robert

Layne, Linda

Zola, Irving Kenneth

Zuriff, G. E.

Duster, Troy

April 17 Theoretical Approaches to the Concept of Risk

Lippman, Abby

Kenen, Regina H.

Lupton, Deborah

Recommended

Gaines, Atwood D.
Michie, S., V. McDonald and Therese Marteau  

Quaid, Kimberly A.  

Williams, J. K. and D. L. Schutte  

**April 24  Risk Concepts I: Lived Experience**

Wexler, Alice  

**Recommended**

Cox, Susan M. and William McKellin  

Henderson, Bethan H. and Bryan T. Maguire  


Emery, J., S. Kumar and H. Smith  
McAllister, M. F.
Michie, S. V. McDonald and T. Marteau  

May I  Risk Concepts II: Pregnancy and Prenatal Care

Rapp, Rayna  

Press, Nancy and C. H. Browner  

Markens, Susan, C. H. Browner and Nancy Press  

Browner, C. H., H. Mabel Preloran and Simon J. Cox  

Marteau, Theresa M. and Harriet Drake  

Recommended

Rothman, Barbara Katz  

Rapp, Rayna  

Asch, Adrienne  
May 8    Genetics in Disability and Disease

Middleton, Anna, J. Hewison, and R. F. Mueller

Press, Nancy, Wylie Burke, and Sharon Durfy

Press, Nancy, Yutaka Yasui, Susan Reynolds, Sharon J. Durfy and Wylie Burke

Prouser, Nancy

Rapp, Rayna

Welch, Gilbert H. and Wylie Burke

Recommended

Nelkin, Dorothy and Lori Andrews

Wagner, Teresa M. U. and Regine Ahner
Eisinger, F., G. Geller, W. Burke and N. A. Holtzman

Burgess, Michael M., Shelin Adam, Maurice Bloch and Michael R. Hayden

Vergeer, M. M., F. Van Balen and E. Ketting

Singer, Eleanor, Amy D. Corning and Toni Antonucci

May 15 Discourses on Genetics and Genetic Conditions

Required

Ettorre, Elizabeth

Henderson, Lesley and Jenny Kitzinger

Hallowell, Nina

Cunningham-Burley, Sarah and Anne Kerr

Shakespeare, Tom
1999 ‘Losing the Plot’? Medical and Activist Discourses of Contemporary Genetics
Conrad, Peter and Susan Markens  

**Recommended**

Bernhardt, Barbara A., Barbara B. Biesecker and Carrie L. Mastromarino  

Richards, M. P. M.  

Williams, Janet K. and Debra L. Schutte  

Finkler, Kaja  

**May 22  The Human Genome Project: Social, Economic and Politics Issues**

**Required**

Khoury, Muin K., Wylie Burke, and Elizabeth. J. Thomson, Eds.  

Collins, Frank S.  

Annas, George J.  

Greely, Henry T.
Belkin, Lisa  

Hanson, F. Allan  

Recommended

Coventry, Peter A. and John V. Pickstone  
1999   From What and Why Did Genetics Emerge as a Medical Specialism in the 1970s in the UK? A Case-History of Research, Policy and Services in the Manchester Region of the NHS. Social Science and Medicine 49:1227-1238.

Caplan, A.  

Annas, George and M. A. Grodin (Eds.)  

Macklin, R.  

White, Ray and C. Thomas Caskey  

White, M.  

Paul, D.


Hubbard, Ruth and R. C. Lewontin

Weijer, C. and E. J. Emanuel

Anonymous

Weijer, Charles, Gary Goldsand and Ezekiel J. Emanuel

Reilly, Philip
1999  Efforts to Regulate The Collection and Use of Genetic Information. Pathology and Laboratory Medicine 123:1066-1070.

May 29  Student presentations

June 5  Student presentations