

**Biomedicine and Culture**  
LCC 3318  
Spring 2009

T/Th 3:05PM-4:25PM, Skiles 317

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Office Hours: Skiles 360, Wednesdays 1-3 or by appointment

*This syllabus is preliminary and subject to change. The most current version will always be posted on the T-Square site.*

In the lab and in the newspapers, topics in biomedicine are frequent subjects of debate. From assisted reproductive technology and stem cells, to pharmaceuticals and imaging technologies, to life support and its termination, biomedicine is shaping our lives in unprecedented ways. This course uses science studies and anthropological approaches to provide students with both information and analytical tools to grapple with the intersections of biomedicine and culture in American society.

This course does not seek to be comprehensive, but is arranged to map specific sites at which boundaries of the body are technologically mediated. The first theme is ingestibles, covering food and pharmaceuticals. The second is incisions, and explores the cultural practices around surgery, from cosmetic to cardiac. The third is bodies of information, and covers the ways that representing people through testing brains and genetic codes are shaping our experiences. The final theme is im/mortality, and covers reproductive technologies, stem cells, and death.

This course is appropriate for students who are interested in careers in medicine and the life sciences, or who are interested in being engaged in broad public discussions on these themes. No particular background in STaC or topics in biotechnology is required, but students are expected to read thoroughly and critically.

Requirements for the course:

- ❖ Class attendance and participation: 20 points. Engagement with the readings is the focus of this class, and students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss them. All readings are available on T-Square. If you must miss class no matter the reason, contact me to make arrangements for making up what you missed.
- ❖ Blog Entries: 10 points. *Before* class each day for which readings are assigned, write an entry on your response to the readings on the blog section of T-Square. Your short comments (100-300 words) should demonstrate that you have done the reading and note comments and questions that you would like to raise in class.
- ❖ Short presentation: 6 points. Each student signs up for a particular day to bring in a newspaper article, advertisement, or other current cultural source. The student will take 5-10 minutes to present the material to the class and describe how it can be related to the readings for that day.
- ❖ Four short writing assignments (1000-1300 words): 11 points each. All assignments are due on the date and time specified on the assignment. Late assignments will be penalized by one point if they are an hour late or more, and an additional two points per calendar day thereafter.
- ❖ Final paper longer paper (2000-2500 words): 20 points. This paper will draw on a short writing assignment of your choice but incorporate outside research and be substantially elaborated. Students must have an individual meeting to discuss their outline and sources, which will be worth 20% of the total final paper grade (5 points).

Refer to university policies on accommodation of students with disabilities, as well as guidelines on academic integrity.

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
<b>UNIT 1 INGESTIBLES</b>		
1	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 6</p> <p><b>Intro to the Course</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 8</p> <p><b>Food and Utility</b></p> <p>Pollan, Michael. "Unhappy Meals," <i>New York Times Magazine</i> January 28, 2007.</p> <p>Mansfield, Becky. "From Catfish to Organic Fish: Making Distinctions About Nature as Cultural Economic Practice," <i>Geoforum</i> 34 (2003): 329-342.</p> <p>Barthes, Roland. "Wine and Milk," from <i>Mythologies</i> (New York: Hill and Wang, 1972) pp. 58-61.</p>

2	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 13</p> <p><b>Fries and Coke</b></p> <p>Weiner, Mark. "Consumer Culture and Participatory Democracy: The Story of Coca Cola During World War II," from <i>Food in the USA</i> edited by Carole Counihan, 2002, pp. 123-149.</p> <p>Schlosser, Eric. "Why the Fries Taste Good," from <i>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the American Meal</i> (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001), pp. 111-131</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 15</p> <p><b>Intro to Drugs</b></p> <p>Van der Geest et. al., "The Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals," <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i>, Vol. 25 (1996): 153-178.</p> <p>Rasumussen, Nicholas. "Making the First Antidepressant: Amphetamine in American Medicine, 1929-1950," <i>Journal of the History of Medicine and the Allied Sciences</i>, Vol. 61, No. 3, pp. 288-323.</p> <p>Dumit, Joseph. "Drugs for Life," <i>Molecular Interventions</i> Vol 2 Iss 3 (June 2002): 124-127.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 20</p> <p><b>Polyvalence of Drugs</b></p> <p>Persson, Asha. "Incorporating Pharmakon: HIV, medicine and body shape change," <i>Body and Society</i> 10 (2004): 45-67.</p> <p>Martin, Emily. "The Pharmaceutical Person," <i>BioSocieties</i> (2006): 1, 273-287.</p> <p>Recommended: Selections from Derrida's "Plato's Pharmacy"</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 22</p> <p><b>Drugs and Gendered Identity</b></p> <p>Sze, Julie. "Boundaries and Border Wars: DES, Technology and Environmental Justice," Volume 58, Number 3, September 2006, pp. 791-814</p> <p>Mamo, Laura, and Jennifer Fishman. "Potency in All the Right Places: Viagra as Technology of the Gendered Body," <i>Body and Society</i> 7.4(2001): 13-35.</p>
<b>UNIT 2 INCISIONS</b>		
4	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 27</p> <p><b>Project 1 Due online by 2pm</b></p> <p>Media Day, no readings</p> <p>In-class film: <i>Dirty Pretty Things</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Jan 29</p> <p><b>Making Surgeons and Operable Bodies</b></p> <p>Gawande, Atul. "The Learning Curve: Like Everyone Else, Surgeons Need Practice. That's where you come in," <i>The New Yorker</i> January 28, 2002.</p> <p>Waldby, Cathy, and Robert Mitchell, "Real Time Demand: Information, Regeneration, and Organ Markets," in <i>Tissue Economies: Blood, Organs and Cell Lines in Late Capitalism</i> (Duke University Press 2006), pp. 160-180.</p>

5	<p style="text-align: right;">Feb 3</p> <p><b>Rituals of Surgery</b></p> <p>Katz, Pearl. "Ritual in the Operating Room," <i>Ethnology</i> Vol. 20, No. 4 (Oct 1981), pp. 335-350.</p> <p>Hirschauer, Stefan. "The Manufacture of Bodies in Surgery," <i>Social Studies of Science</i>, Vol. 21, No. 2. (May, 1991), pp. 279-319.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Feb 5</p> <p><b>Sight and Touch</b></p> <p>Jones, David S. "Visions of a Cure: Visualization, Clinical Trials, and Controversies in Cardiac Therapeutics, 1968-1998," <i>Isis</i>, Vol. 91, No. 3. (Sep., 2000), pp. 504-541.</p> <p>Prentice, Rachel. "The Anatomy of a Surgical Simulation: The Mutual Articulation of Bodies in and through the Machine," <i>Social Studies of Science</i> 35/6(December 2005) 837-866.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: right;">Feb 10</p> <p><b>Plastic Surgery 1</b></p> <p>Frank, Arthur W. "Emily's Scars: Surgical Shapings, Technoluxe, and Bioethics," <i>Hastings Center Report</i> 34 no. 2 (2004): 18-29.</p> <p>Lorde, Audre. "Breast Cancer: Power Versus Prosthesis," from <i>The Cancer Journals</i> (San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1980): 55-77.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Feb 12</p> <p><b>Plastic Surgery 2</b></p> <p>Balsamo, Anne. "On the Cutting Edge: Cosmetic Surgery and the Technological Production of the Gendered Body," <i>Camera Obscura</i>, 1992. Vol. 28, pp. 206-237.</p> <p>Kaw, Eugenia. "Medicalization of Racial Features: Asian American Women and Cosmetic Surgery," <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 7.1(1993): 74-89.</p>
<b>UNIT 3 BODIES OF INFORMATION</b>		
7	<p style="text-align: right;">Feb 17</p> <p><b>Project 2 Due Online by 2pm</b></p> <p>Media Day, No Readings</p> <p>In-class DVD: <i>African American Lives</i> Episode 4: "Beyond the Middle Passage"</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Feb 19</p> <p><b>Diagnosis and Control</b></p> <p>Nelkin, Dorothy, and Laurence Tankredi, "The New Diagnostics" and "Defining Diagnosis," from <i>Dangerous Diagnostics: The Social Power of Biological Information</i>, New York: Basic Books, 1989, pp. 3-36.</p> <p>Conrad, Peter. "The Shifting Engines of Medicalization," <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> Vol 46 (March 2005): 3-14.</p>

8	<p style="text-align: right;">Feb 24</p> <p><b>Representing Sexual Difference</b></p> <p>Martin, Emily. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles," <i>Signs</i>, Vol. 16, No. 3. (Spring, 1991), pp. 485-501.</p> <p>Schiebinger, Londa. "More than Skin Deep: The Scientific Search for Sexual Difference," in <i>The Mind Has no Sex?: Women and the Origins of Modern Science</i>, pp. 189-213.</p> <p>Fausto-Sterling, Anne. "Bare Bones of Sex Part 1: Sex and Gender," <i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i> 2005, vol. 30, no. 2, 1491-1527.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Feb 26</p> <p><b>Racialized Subjects of Research</b></p> <p>Braun, Lundy, et al. (2007) "Racial categories in medical practice: How useful are they?" <i>PLoS Med</i> 4(9): e271.</p> <p>Epstein, Steven. "Bodily Differences and Collective Identities: The Politics of Gender and Race in Biomedical Research in the United States," <i>Body and Society</i> 10.2-3(2004): 183-203.</p> <p>Montoya, Michael. "Bioethnic Conscription: Genes, Race, and Mexicano/a Identity in Diabetes Research," <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 22.1 (Feb 2007): 94-128.</p>
9	<p style="text-align: right;">Mar 3</p> <p><b>Inspecting Ourselves: Genes</b></p> <p>Nelson, Alondra. "Bio Science: Genetic Genealogy Testing and the Pursuit of African Ancestry," <i>Social Studies of Science</i> 38.5 (October 2008) 759-783.</p> <p>Stevens, Jacqueline. "DNA and Other Linguistic Stuff," <i>Social Text</i> 70, Vol. 20, No. 1, Spring 2002, pp. 105-136.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Mar 5</p> <p><b>Inspecting Ourselves: Brains</b></p> <p>Dumit, Joseph. "Is it Me or My Brain? Depression and Neuroscientific Facts," <i>Journal of the Medical Humanities</i> Vol 24, Nos. 1/2 (Summer 2003): pp. 35-47.</p> <p>Wilson, Elizabeth A. "Neurological Preference: LeVay's Study of Sexual Orientation," <i>SubStance</i> Vol. 91 (2000): 23-38.</p>
10	<p style="text-align: right;">Mar 10</p> <p><b>Media and Museums</b></p> <p>Haraway, Donna. "Universal Donors in Vampire Culture," in <i>Modest_Witness@Second_Millennium.FemaleMan_Meets_OncoMouse</i>, Routledge, 1997, pp. 173-212.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Mar 12</p> <p>Media Day, No Readings Watch "Underexposed: The Temple of the Fetus"</p> <p>Catch-Up Day</p> <p><b>Project 3 Due by Noon</b></p>
11	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>	

UNIT 4: IM/MORTALITY		
12	Mar 24	Mar 26
	<p><b>Conceptions</b></p> <p>Thompson, Charis. "Strategic Naturalizing: Kinship in an Infertility Clinic," in Sarah Franklin and Susan McKinnon, eds., <i>Relative Values: Refiguring Kinship Studies</i>, Duke University Press 2001, pp. 175-202.</p> <p>Hartouni, Valerie. "Breached Birth: Anna Johnson and the Reproduction of Raced Bodies," in <i>Cultural Conceptions: Reproductive Technologies and the Remaking of Life</i> U of Minnesota Press, 1997, pp. 85-98.</p>	<p><b>Birth</b></p> <p>Cartwright, Elizabeth. "The Logic of Heartbeats." In <i>Cyborg Babies: From Technosex to Technotots</i>, Edited by Robbie Davis-Floyd and Joseph Dumit, New York: Routledge, 1998.</p> <p>Ashford, Janet Isaacs. "Natural Love," In <i>Cyborg Babies: From Technosex to Technotots</i>, Edited by Robbie Davis-Floyd and Joseph Dumit, New York: Routledge, 1998.</p>
13	Mar 31	April 2
	<p><b>Stem Cells</b></p> <p>Landecker, Hannah. "Immortality In Vitro: A History of the HeLa Cell Line," in <i>Biotechnology and Culture: Bodies, Anxieties, Ethics</i>, edited by Paul Brodwin, Indiana University Press 2000, pp. 53-72.</p> <p>Franklin, Sarah. "Embryonic Economies: The Double Reproductive Value of Stem Cells," <i>BioSocieties</i>, Vol. 1(2006), 71-90.</p> <p>Groopman, Jerome. "The Reeve Effect," <i>The New Yorker</i> November 10, 2003, pp. 82-93.</p>	<p><b>Death</b></p> <p>Anderson, Patrick. "On Feeding Tubes," <i>The Drama Review</i> 49.3 (Fall 2005), pp. 5-9.</p> <p>Lock, Margaret. "Living Cadavers and the Calculation of Death," <i>Body &amp; Society</i> Vol 10 (2004): 135-152.</p> <p>Herz, Robert. "A Contribution to the Study of the Collective Representation of Death," in <i>Death and the Right Hand</i>, Glencoe Ill: The Free Press [1909] 1960, pp. 29-86.</p>

14	<p style="text-align: right;">Apr 7</p> <p><b>Preserved Corpses on Display</b></p> <p>Mitford, Jessica. "Parting the Formaldehyde Curtain," in Sheridan Warner Baker, <i>The Practical Stylist With Readings and Handbook</i>, , Longman 1997 pp. 320-327.</p> <p>Van Dijck, Jose. "BodyWorlds: The Art of Plastinated Cadavers," <i>Configurations</i> 9 (2001):99–126.</p> <p>Recommended: Foucault, Michel "Open up a Few Corpses," in <i>Birth of the Clinic: An Archeology of Medical Perception</i>, New York: Random House, 1994 [1973], pp. 124-248.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">April 9</p> <p><b>Project 4 Due Online by Noon</b></p> <p>Discuss Final Paper</p>
15	<p style="text-align: right;">April 14</p> <p>No Class – Individual Meetings to Discuss Final Paper</p> <p>Bring Outline and Sources</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">April 16</p> <p>No Class – Individual Meetings to Discuss Final Paper</p> <p>Bring Outline and Sources</p>
16	<p style="text-align: right;">April 21</p> <p>Bring 3 Copies of Draft Final Paper for Peer Review in Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">April 23</p> <p><b>Course Wrap-Up</b></p> <p><b>Final Paper Due Online By Noon</b></p>