

## **Biomedicine and Culture Syllabus**

LCC 3318 – Spring 2011

Professor Anne Pollock

Class meets: MWF 11-12, Skiles 311

Office hours: W 2-5 or by appointment, Skiles 360

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, biomedical technologies are shaping our lives in unprecedented ways. This course uses interdisciplinary sources – drawn principally from science and technology studies, cultural studies, history, and anthropology – to provide students with both information and analytical tools to grapple with the intersections of biomedicine and culture.

Requirements for the course:

- ❖ Class attendance and participation: 15 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.
- ❖ Blog Entries: 15 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 be posted by 10am, demonstrate that you have done the reading, and note comments and questions that you would like to raise in class.
- ❖ Individual presentation: 5 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 concisely present the material to the class and describe how it can be related to the readings for that day. The presentation should (1) present the outside source clearly; (2) describe concept(s) from the day's course reading(s); and (3) show connections between the course concept(s) and the outside source.
- ❖ Three individual writing assignments (1000-1500 words): 15 points each. 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 group project: 20 points. Includes subcomponents: individually-completed annotated bibliography (5 points), group poster (5 points), group poster presentation (10 points). Each group member must also complete an individual self-assessment of their work.

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

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
<b>UNIT 1: FOODS AND DRUGS</b>			
<b>1</b>	Jan 10 Intro to the course  In-class reading: Dumit, Joseph. "Drugs for Life," <i>Molecular Interventions</i> Vol 2 Iss. 3 (June 2002): 124-127.	Jan 12 Food/Drug 1: Patent Medicine  Cohen, Michael M., "Jim Crow's Drug War: Race, Coca-Cola, and the Southern Origins of Drug Prohibition," <i>Southern Cultures</i> 12.3 (Fall 2006): 55-79.	Jan 14 Food/Drug 2: Foods as Pharmaceuticals  Pollan, Michael. "Unhappy Meals," <i>New York Times Magazine</i> January 28, 2007.  Weiner, Kate. "Configuring users of cholesterol lowering foods: A review of biomedical discourse," <i>Social Science &amp; Medicine</i> , Volume 71, Issue 9, November 2010, Pages 1541-1547.
<b>2</b>	Jan 17 MLK Day – No Class	Jan 19 Anthropology of Drugs  Van der Geest et. al., "The Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals," <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> , Vol. 25 (1996): 153-178.	Jan 21 Pharmakon  Persson, Asha. "Incorporating Pharmakon: HIV, medicine and body shape change," <i>Body and Society</i> 10 (2004): 45-67.
<b>3</b>	Jan 24 Blockbuster Drugs  Greene, Jeremy, "Releasing the Flood Waters: Diuril and the Reshaping of Hypertension" <i>Bulletin of the History of Medicine</i> 79 (2005): 749-794.	Jan 26 Marketing Gender and Drugs  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.	Jan 28 Il/licit drugs  Chapkis, Wendy, "Cannabis, Consciousness and Healing," <i>Contemporary Justice Review</i> 10.4 (December 2007): pp. 443-460.

<b>UNIT 2: DIAGNOSTICS</b>			
<b>4</b>	Jan 31 Unit 1 Assignment Due, Noon Screening replaces class: 7pm, Skiles 371 "In the Family"	Feb 2 Diagnosis and Control 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.	Feb 4 Consuming new diagnostics Nikolas Rose "Introduction," <i>Politics of Life Itself</i> (Princeton University Press 2006), pp. 1-7.
<b>5</b>	Feb 7 Monitoring 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.	Feb 9 Diagnosing Relatedness I 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.	Feb 11 Diagnosing Relatedness II 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.
<b>6</b>	Feb 14 Diagnosing Sex Fausto-Sterling, Anne. (2000). "Dueling Dualisms," from <i>Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality</i> (pp. 1-29). Boston: Basic Books.	Feb 16 Racialization of Diagnosis Metzl, Jonathan, "A Racialized Disease" in <i>The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease</i> (Boston: Beacon Press, 2009): 95-108.	Feb 18 Confronting Diagnosis 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): 35-47.

<b>UNIT 3: SURGERY</b>			
<b>7</b>	Feb 21 Unit 2 Assignment Due, Noon  Screening replaces class: 7pm Skiles 371 “Dirty Pretty Things”	Feb 23 Organ Trades  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.	Feb 25 Training Surgeons I  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.
<b>8</b>	Feb 28 Training Surgeons II  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.	Mar 2 Knowledge in Surgery  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.	Mar 4 Surgical Shapings  Frank, Arthur W. “Emily’s Scars: Surgical Shapings, Technoluxe, and Bioethics,” <i>Hastings Center Report</i> 34 no. 2 (2004): 18-29.
<b>9</b>	Mar 7 Patient Accounts I  Lorde, Audre. “Breast Cancer: Power Versus Prosthesis,” from <i>The Cancer Journals</i> (San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1980): 55-77.	Mar 9 Patient Accounts II  Gimlin, Debra. “Imagining the Other in Cosmetic Surgery,” <i>Body &amp; Society</i> , Vol. 16.4 (2010): 57-76.	Mar 11 Writing Day  Writing Assignment 3 Due, Midnight

<b>UNIT 4: IM/MORTALITY</b>			
<b>10</b>	Mar 14 Catch-up day: no readings  Intro to Death  Form groups for final project	Mar 16 Immortal Cells I  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.	Mar 18 Immortal Cells II  Franklin, Sarah. "Embryonic Economies: The Double Reproductive Value of Stem Cells," <i>BioSocieties</i> , Vol. 1(2006), 71-90.
<b>11</b>	SPRING BREAK		
<b>12</b>	Mar 28 New Deaths  Pollock, Anne. "The Internal Cardiac Defibrillator." Ed. Sherry Turkle. <i>The Inner History of Devices: Technology and Self</i> . Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008: 98-111.	Mar 30 Living Dead I  Lock, Margaret. "Living Cadavers and the Calculation of Death," <i>Body &amp; Society</i> Vol 10 (2004): 135-152.	April 1 Living Dead II  Anderson, Patrick. "On Feeding Tubes," <i>The Drama Review</i> 49.3 (Fall 2005), pp. 5-9.
<b>13</b>	April 4 Corpses on Display I  Trompette, Pascale, and Melanie Lemonnier, "Funeral embalming: the transformation of a medical innovation," <i>Science Studies</i> 22.2 (2009): 9-30.	April 6 Corpses on Display II  Van Dijck, Jose. "BodyWorlds: The Art of Plastinated Cadavers," <i>Configurations</i> 9 (2001):99-126.	April 8 No Class [Harvard STS Summit]  Research Day
<b>14</b>	April 11 Bring sources for final project	April 13 Final Project group work	April 15 Final Project annotated bibliography due
<b>15</b>	April 18 Final Project group work	April 20 Final Project group work	April 21 Poster Presentations
<b>16</b>	April 25 Poster Presentations	April 27 Poster presentations	April 29 Last day of class: wrap up  Group Poster Due at Midnight  Individual Self-Assessment Due at Midnight