

LCC3318 Biomedicine and Culture
Pacific Study Abroad Spring 2010

This syllabus is preliminary and subject to change

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. Those transformations are simultaneously local and global, and the distinctive Australian historical, cultural, and regulatory context will provide an important comparative component. Australian scholars have been at the forefront of critical engagement with biomedicine, and this course will include many readings by Australian authors and guest lectures by historians and social scientists from the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales. Field trips will include Sydney's Quarantine Station and the Royal Price Alfred Museum of Medical History. 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 demonstrate that you have done the reading and note comments and questions that you would like to raise in class.
- ❖ Short presentation: 10 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.
- ❖ Two short 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: 25 points.

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

Locations	Sydney	Brisbane	Heron Island
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Date	Topic	Readings	Special Notes
Mon Feb 22	Intro to the Course Unit 1: Pharmaceuticals	In Class Reading: Dumit, Joseph. "Drugs for Life," <i>Molecular Interventions</i> Vol 2 Iss. 3 (June 2002): 124-127.	Recommended: HTS excursion to Australian Museum
Tues Feb 23	Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals	Van der Geest et. al., "The Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals," <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> , Vol. 25 (1996): 153-178.	first blog post due, 9am
Wed Feb 24	Polyvalence of Drugs	Persson, Asha. "Incorporating Pharmakon: HIV, medicine and body shape change," <i>Body and Society</i> 10 (2004): 45-67. Martin, Emily. "The Pharmaceutical Person," <i>BioSocieties</i> (2006): 1, 273-287.	
Thurs Feb 25	No Class – Biology Excursion to Long Reef		
Mon Mar 1	Research and Markets	Rasumussen, Nicholas. "The Moral Economy of the Drug Company – Medical Scientist Collaboration in Interwar America," <i>Social Studies of Science</i> , Vol. 34.2 (2004), pp. 161-185. 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.	Recommended HTS excursion: Botanical Gardens
Tues Mar 2	Drugs and the Nation	Connor, Linda H. "Relief, risk and renewal: mixed therapy regimens in an Australian suburb," <i>Social Science & Medicine</i> , Volume 59, Issue 8, October 2004, Pages 1695-1705 Race, Kane. (2004) "Drugs and domesticity: fencing the nation." <i>Cultural Studies Review</i> . 10, 2: 62-84.	Excursion to Royal Prince Alfred Museum Writing Assignment 1 Due at Midnight

Wed Mar 3	Finish Unit 1 Intro Unit 2: Bodies and Boundaries Indigeneity	Anderson, Warwick, "The Colonial Medicine of Settler States: Comparing Histories of Indigenous Health," <i>Health and History</i> Vol. 9, No. 2 (2007).	
Thurs Mar 4	Quarantine	Bashford, Alison, Quarantine and the Imagining of the Australian Nation, <i>Health</i> , 2 (1998): 387-402.	
Mon Mar 8	<i>Excursion to Quarantine Station</i>		
Tues Mar 9	Terror	Cooper, Melinda, Preempting Emergence: The Biological Turn of the War on Terror', <i>Theory, Culture and Society</i> , Volume 23.4, July 2006, pp. 113-135.	
Wed Mar 10	Genomic Sovereignty	Benjamin, R. (2009). A Lab of Their Own: Genomic Sovereignty as Postcolonial <i>Science Policy</i> . <i>Policy & Society</i> 28(4): 341-355.	
Thurs Mar 11	<i>No Class – Biology Excursion to Blue Moutains</i>		
Mon Mar 15	Technobirth to Technodeath	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. Anderson, Patrick. "On Feeding Tubes," <i>The Drama Review</i> 49.3 (Fall 2005), pp. 5-9. Lock, Margaret. "Living Cadavers and the Calculation of Death," <i>Body & Society</i> Vol 10 (2004): 135-152.	
Tues Mar 16	<i>No Class – Travel to Heron Island</i>		
Wed Mar 17	Intro Unit 3: Biotech	Nikolas Rose "Introduction," <i>Politics of Life Itself</i> (Princeton University Press 2006), pp. 1-7.	Writing Assignment 2 Due

Thur Mar 18	Bioprospecting	Helmreich, Stefan. "Blue-green Capital, Biotechnological Circulation and an Oceanic Imaginary: A Critique of Biopolitical Economy," <i>Biosocieties</i> (2007), 2: 287-302	
Mon Mar 22	Agribiotech	Franklin, Sarah, "'Crook' pipettes: embryonic emigrations from agriculture to reproductive biomedicine," <i>Studies in History and Philosophy of Biol & Biomed Sci</i> , June 2007: 358-373.	
Tues Mar 23	No Class – Travel From Heron Island		
Wed Mar 24	No Class – Australia Zoo Trip		
Thurs Mar 25	Cell Lines	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.	Recommended HTS Excursion: Queensland Museum
Mon Mar 29	Stem Cells	Franklin, Sarah. "Embryonic Economies: The Double Reproductive Value of Stem Cells," <i>BioSocieties</i> , Vol. 1(2006), 71-90. Waldby, Catherine and Salter, Brian (2008) "Global Governance in Human Embryonic Stem Cell Science: Standardisation and Bioethics in Research and Patenting," <i>Studies in Ethics, Law, and Technology</i> : Vol. 2 : Iss. 1, Article 12.	Recommended HTS excursion: Brewery
Tues Mar 30	Biotech as BioArt	Van Dijck, Jose. "BodyWorlds: The Art of Plastinated Cadavers," <i>Configurations</i> 9 (2001):99–126.	
Wed Mar 31	No Class – Biology Excursion to Lamington National Park		
Thurs Apr 1	Group Presentations		
Mon Apr 5	Group Presentations		

Tues Apr 6	<i>Final Exams</i>
Wed Apr 7	<i>End of Program</i>