

Biofutures



CHID 222A

Fall 2016

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CHID Gateway/NW/I&S

- What are the ethical and legal issues involved in patenting human cell lines?
- How are recent biotechnologies portrayed in science fiction films? What can we learn by studying these portrayals?
- What does it mean to suggest that biotechnology is part of "an information society"?
- How are race, class, gender, and disability mapped onto or intersected with biomedicine?
- How are artists using live organisms in their art work? What can we learn about art, ethics, and scientific practice by studying this work?
- How do scientists manipulate space and time in the laboratory?

This class explores key legal, ethical, cultural, scientific, and commercial aspects of the rapidly changing world of biotechnology and bioinformatics. It specifically asks how new discoveries in biology encourage us to rethink issues of ownership, communication, geography, identity, and artistic practice.

Come find out about the often exhilarating and frequently frightening scenarios for the future of your body. This class is designed to appeal to all. No prerequisites needed!