

University Studies 133A
Freshman Inquiry
Dr. Marc R. Feldesman
Spring 2005

Entering the Cyborg Millenium: Transformation in Technology and Human Society

Course Description (in PSU Catalog): This course explores the impact of 20th (and 21st) century revolutions in information technology and genetics on our lives and on diverse cultures by looking at changes in relationships, work, privacy, reproduction, and personal responsibility. From workplace surveillance to mail retrieval, from pre-natal genetic screening to cloning, from human consciousness to artificial intelligence, we examine the dangers, opportunities, and ethical ambiguities inherent in new information technologies. Through stories, films, case studies, art, books, and original projects, students will have a wide range of outlets through which to explore and express their own questions and ideas.

Spring Term Focus: During Spring Term, we will focus on genetic and biotechnology and its social and political implications.

Course and University Studies Goals:

- **Inquiry and Critical Thinking**
Students will learn various modes of inquiry through interdisciplinary curricula—problem-posing, investigating, conceptualizing—in order to become active, self-motivated, and empowered learners.
- **Communication**
Students will enhance their capacity to communicate in various ways—writing, graphics, quantitative reasoning, and other visual and oral means—to collaborate effectively with others in group work, and to be competent in appropriate communication technologies.
- **The Variety of Human Experience**
Students will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of the rich complexity of the human experience through the study of differences in ethnic and cultural perspectives, class, race, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.
- **Ethical Issues and Social Responsibility**
Students will expand their understanding of the impact and value of individuals and their choices on society, both intellectually and socially, through group projects and collaboration in learning communities.

Office and Hours:

My Office: 141-G Cramer Hall

My Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 – 10:30. Other times by appointment.

Phone: 503-725-3910 (my secretary's phone: 503-725-3081)

Email: feldesmanm@pdx.edu (much more reliable way to contact me)

Web: <http://web.pdx.edu/~h1mf> (all handouts there)

Peer Mentor: Kelvin Nicholson

Email: (kelvin@pdx.edu)

Web: <http://web.pdx.edu/~kelvin> (mentor session handouts, course handouts, assignments, and tutorials)

Office Hours: None. Arrange appointments with Kelvin via email or talk with him just before or just after mentor session to set up a meeting time and place.

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m., Room 201 Cramer Hall.

Mentor Sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 – 10:50 (section 1), 11 – 11:50 (section 2), 12 – 12:50 (section 3). You MUST be enrolled in ONE mentor section in addition to the main course.

REQUIRED Textbooks (Available at PSU Bookstore – Urban Center):

Philip R. Reilly, 2000. **Abraham Lincoln's DNA and Other Adventures in Genetics.** New York: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. (abbreviated **ABE** in syllabus)

Lori Andrews and Dorothy Nelkin, 2001. **Body Bazaar: The Market for Human Tissue in the Biotechnology Age.** New York: Crown Press. (abbreviated in syllabus as **BB**). [This book is hard to find. Please share your copy with other students who may be unable to locate].

Ann Fadiman, 1997. **The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures.** New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux. (abbreviated in syllabus as **SPIRIT**).

M. Neil Browne and Stuart Keeley, *Asking the Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking*. 7th Edition. 2004. Prentice-Hall. (Used in Fall, Winter, and Spring terms). ABBREVIATED IN SYLLABUS AS **B&K**. **(THIS IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. YOU SHOULD BE READING IT AND APPLYING IT TO YOUR WRITTEN WORK AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS).**

Deborah Rumsey, 2003. **Statistics for Dummies.** New York: Wiley Publishing.

You should also keep your class work on a ZIP disk (100 MB for compatibility) or a rewritable CD. I'm afraid you'll have way too much this term to use a simple floppy diskette. **(It should go without saying that you need to carry these with you to mentor session. It is hard to save your work without these).**

Course Conduct: Attendance is required, as you know. The same rules apply to Spring as have applied in previous terms. The sign-in sheet is my way of tracking who's in class and who isn't. Please don't forget to sign in daily.

The Mentor sessions are also required. Whether Kelvin takes roll or not is up to him, but the same rules apply to his sessions as apply to mine. Mentor sessions are intended to supplement class sessions – to continue discussions, to instigate parallel discussions – and to develop and hone skills in technology, research, writing, and speaking. Kelvin will assist in grading regular class assignments, will have his own set of assignments, and will provide independent feedback to me on your participation in mentor sessions.

Grades and Grading: All assignments will be given a letter grade. At term's end, these letter grades will be converted to numeric scores, thus insuring consistency in all grading. The total point value for Spring term is 1000 points. Thus, if an assignment is worth 15% of your grade, it will eventually be converted to some fraction of 150 points. Keep that in mind if you decide to delay or ignore an assignment.

You will turn in all written assignments as “hard copy” (i.e. printed) **and** electronically (via email). Email copies of every assignment (except the Portfolio) to me (feldesmanm@pdx.edu) and to Kelvin Nicholson (Kelvin@pdx.edu). Be certain you run an antivirus scan on the document you send BEFORE you send it. Your assignment is not considered turned in at all until I receive both email and hardcopy. Hardcopy is due by the beginning of the class on the due date. Electronic copy is due NO LATER THAN 5 p.m. on the same date – the timestamp on the message determines whether you meet this requirement. Due dates are listed in the detailed outline that follows.

Late Work: I am allergic to work turned in late. You may turn in assignments (except technology journals) one day late (by noon Wednesday for assignments due on Tuesday; by noon Friday for assignments due on Thursday), for a reduction of one grade (e.g. an A paper becomes a B if it is turned in late). Unless there are seriously mitigating circumstances that involve a documented (by a physician) illness or other personal circumstance that can be verified, I will not accept papers any later. **EXCEPTION:** I won't accept your portfolio late under any circumstances. **It must be turned by no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday June 9, 2005.** [Note: this is one day earlier than the normal finals time for UNST 133A. I'm leaving town early on Friday morning and will not be able to complete grading before leaving unless you adhere to this due date.]

Accommodations for Disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your ability to function in the classroom and you want special accommodations or services, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that you identify yourself to PSU's Disability Resource Center (DRC – 435 Smith Memorial Center) and register for services. I am unable to provide special accommodations unless you are pre-registered with DRC and meet their criteria for services.

Assignments that earn grades (note: these assignments are referenced by number in the actual course schedule that follows). BE CERTAIN THAT YOU

**KEEP A COPY OF EVERY PIECE OF PAPER YOU TURN IN TO KELVIN OR TO ME.
YOU WILL NEED THESE TO PUT YOUR PORTFOLIO TOGETHER**

Assignment #1 – Genetic and Biotechnology Journals (3 journals, due weekly starting week #2 – first due April 7, third due April 21). 5% each journal (15% total).

Assignment #2 – e-Voting (group) project final report, web site, and class presentation due April 28. 25% of grade.

Assignment #3 – Essays on SPIRIT (Individual) due May 12. 20% of grade.

Assignment #4 - Term long research project chosen from topic list (Individual). (research paper) due May 26th. Oral presentations begin same day. 20% of grade.

Assignment #5. Electronic Portfolio (as Web Page) and on CD. Due June 9th by 10 a.m. 20% of grade.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is cheating, short and simple – as several students discovered in the Fall. I have zero tolerance for it. If you're caught plagiarizing on any assignment, you'll fail the assignment. Worse still, students caught plagiarizing will be singled out for more careful assessment on subsequent assignments. The Student Conduct Code (Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 577, Division 31 - Portland State University) governs your actions at Portland State University and in this course. You may get a copy online at http://www.ess.pdx.edu/osa/osa_b.htm. Hardcopy is available from The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) in 433 Smith Memorial Center. The Writing Center at Portland State University has prepared *PLAGARISM: A Guide for Students* to assist students in understanding plagiarism and developing strategies on avoiding it. A copy of this guide is available from Writing Center located in Cramer Hall 188F. The Anthropology Department – my home department – also has a well-written document entitled "On Academic Honesty". This is available online at the Anthropology Department's website, and is also linked directly from my own website. If you want it directly, you should go to <http://www.anthropology.pdx.edu/assets/plagiarism.pdf>. Take the time to obtain copies of these documents and read them carefully. They are self-explanatory. I will not accept any excuse for plagiarism. There are no mitigating circumstances. If you have any questions, consult with either Kelvin or me.

DETAILED SYLLABUS - FINAL

Date	Topics	Reading – to be done BEFORE class	Assignments and Due Dates
03/29/05	Introduction to course, discussion of assignments. Start VIDEO : Cracking the Code	ABE: 3 – 52.	
03/31/05	VIDEO : Cracking the Code (finish) Discussion of readings. DNA as historical tool.	BB: 9-23, 143 – 166.	
04/05/05	Video : Movie: GATTACA	ABE: 263 - 276	
04/07/05	Video : Movie: GATTACA. Start discussion of readings. Genetic discrimination, genetic engineering.	BB: 82 – 101	First Genetic or Biotechnology Journal Due
04/12/05	Discussion of readings. Genetic discrimination, genetic engineering.	ABE: 53 – 104.	
04/14/05	Genetics & the Legal System readings. Robbie Jessen Visits	BB: 24 – 81.	Second Genetic or Biotechnology Journal Due
04/19/05	VIDEO : Bloodlines Genetics & the Legal System. Wrongful birth suits. (see reading)	ABE: 93 – 104 * be ready to discuss in class	
04/21/05	Gene & DNA patenting. Genetic engineering.	ABE: 213 – 289 BB: 157 - 180	Third Genetic or Biotechnology Journal Due
04/26/05#	Guest Lecture: Dr. Margaret Everett. "DNA as property"		
04/28/05	Discussion DNA and organs as property.	ABE: 213 – 289 BB: 157 - 180	Assignment #2 – evoting due
05/03/05#	GROUP Presentations E-voting		
05/05/05#	GROUP Presentations E-voting		
05/10/05	Movie: THE BOYS FROM BRAZIL.		
05/12/05	Movie: THE BOYS FROM BRAZIL. Discussion: Cloning	ABE: 277 - 316	Assignment #3 due
05/17/05	Cloning & Assisted Reproductive technologies (ART)	ABE 157 - 180	
05/19/05	Cloning & ART continued. Ethical issues in biotechnology and biomedicine	SPIRIT Schiavo readings (on your own)	
05/24/05	Genetically modified organisms (GMO).	ABE 181 - 212	
05/26/05#	Assignment #4 Individual Presentations		Assignment #4 due
05/31/05#	Assignment #4 individual presentations		
06/02/05#	Assignment #4 Individual presentations.		
06/9/05#	PORTFOLIO DUE – 10 AM	PORTFOLIO DUE	Electronic

-10 AM

PORTFOLIO DUE -
10 AM