

## Anthropology 30A

### Biomedicine: Law, Ethics and Practice (Global Issues in Anthropological Perspective)

Winter 2005

Class meeting times: MWF 10.00-10.50, SSPA 1170

Instructor: Kaushik Sunder Rajan, SSPA 4145

Phone: 824-3188

e-mail: [ksunderr@uci.edu](mailto:ksunderr@uci.edu)

Office hours: Wed. 2-4 or by appointment

#### Course description

This course explores some of the legal and ethical issues surrounding new biotechnologies, while always being attentive to how these technologies get produced in various settings every day. The course is organized into three thematic components. We will begin by reading the histories of a couple of landmark biotech companies. We will then focus on two seminal patent cases that have fundamentally altered the intellectual property landscape in biotechnology. We will finally read pieces dealing with various aspects of the genomics revolution and of new reproductive technologies. The idea is to explore how revolutionary technological developments in the life sciences are produced along with legal and political changes, and how all of these changes have profound consequences for the lives people lead.

#### Requirements

The focus of this course will be on reading, writing and class discussion. Approximately 150 pages of required reading will be assigned every week. The written assignment for this course will include *two* midterm exams and a final paper. Midterm exams will be held on *Monday, February 7*, and *Friday, March 4*. The final paper that is required should be 12-15 pages, and can either be a critical engagement with one or more readings in the course, or an original research paper on a topic relevant to the course. (Topics must be approved before hand by the instructor). The final paper is due on the last day of class, **Wednesday, March 16**. I require a topic and a brief (one paragraph) abstract / proposal for the final paper by *Friday, February 25*.

40% of the class grade will be based on the final paper; 25% on each on the two mid-terms; and 10% on class participation.

In addition, people will get the opportunity to volunteer to make presentations on the readings in class. Anyone who makes a presentation will get extra credit on their participation *as well as on one mid-term grade* (whichever of the two is lower).

## Required books

Available at the UCI Bookstore and on reserve at Langson library.

- Paul Rabinow, *Making PCR: A Story of Biotechnology*
- Cynthia Robbins-Roth, *From Alchemy to IPO: The Business of Biotechnology*
- Barry Werth, *The Billion Dollar Molecule*
- Rayna Rapp, *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus*
- James Shreeve, *The Genome War*

In addition, a course packet with the remaining readings is available from Mozena Publishing, 1-800-444-8398.

## Syllabus

### PART I: Corporate Technoscience

#### Wed, Jan 5:

- Introduction

#### Fri, Jan 7:

- Discussion of syllabus, general discussion on bioethics

#### Mon, Jan 10:

- Cynthia Robbins-Roth, *From Alchemy to IPO: The Business of Biotechnology*. Part one: The Roots of Biotechnology (pp. 3-58)

#### Wed, Jan 12:

- Cynthia Robbins-Roth, *From Alchemy to IPO: The Business of Biotechnology*. Part three: Product Development and Financing (pp. 111-145)

#### Fri, Jan 14:

- Cynthia Robbins-Roth, *From Alchemy to IPO: The Business of Biotechnology*. Part three: Product Development and Financing (pp. 146-181).

#### Mon, Jan 17:

- Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, no classes.

#### Wed, Jan 19:

- Paul Rabinow, *Making PCR: A Story of Biotechnology*, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-78)

**Fri, Jan 21:**

- Paul Rabinow, *Making PCR: A Story of Biotechnology*, Chapter 3 (pp. 79-110)

**Mon, Jan 24:**

- Paul Rabinow, *Making PCR: A Story of Biotechnology*, Chapter 4 (pp. 111-133).

**Wed, Jan 26:**

- Volunteer class presentations on Rabinow and Robbins-Roth

**Fri, Jan 28:**

- Guest speaker: Asad Zaidi

**Mon, Jan 31:**

- Barry Werth, *The Million Dollar Molecule* (read as much as possible)

**Wed, Feb 2:**

- Volunteer class presentations on Werth.

**Fri, Feb 4:**

- Donna Haraway, "Mice Into Wormholes: A Technoscience Fugue in Two Parts". In [\*Modest Witness@Second Millennium.FemaleMan\(C\) Meets OncoMouse<sup>TM</sup>\*](#), pp. 49-118 (available in course packet)

**Mon, Feb 7:**

- First mid-term

**PART II: Intellectual Property**

**Wed, Feb 9: (Diamond v. Chakrabarty)**

- Diamond v. Chakrabarty, 447 US 303 (1980) (available in course packet)

**Fri, Feb 11:**

- David Manspiezer, “The Cheshire Cat, the March Hare and the Harvard Mouse: Animal Patents Open up a New, Genetically Engineered Wonderland”, *Rutgers Law Review*, 43 (2) (winter 1991), 417-55 (available in course packet)

**Mon, Feb 14:**

- Rebecca Eisenberg, “Genes, Patents and Product Development”, *Science*, 257 (Aug 15, 1992), 903-8 (available in course packet)
- Rebecca Eisenberg, “Intellectual Property and the Public-Private Divide: The Case of Large Scale cDNA Sequencing”, *University of Chicago Law School Roundtable*, vol. 3 (1996), 557. (available in course packet)
- Volunteer class presentations on *Diamond v. Chakrabarty*.

**Web, Feb 16: (Moore v. Regents of University of California)**

- *Moore v. the Regents of UC* (available in course packet)

**Fri, Feb 18:**

- James Boyle, *Shamans, Software and Spleens*, “Spleens”, 98-110. (available in course packet)

**Mon, Feb 21:**

- President’s Day holiday, no classes.

**Wed, Feb 23:**

- Richard Gold, “Owning our Bodies: An Examination of Property Law and Biotech”, *San Diego Law Review*, vol. 32 (Fall 1995), 1167-1247 (available in course packet)

**Fri, Feb 25:**

- Discussion of IP, volunteer class presentations on *Moore*, discussion of final papers.

**PART III: The Genome Revolution and New Reproductive Technologies**

**Mon, Feb 28:**

- James Shreeve, *The Genome War*, part one (pp. 1-116)

**Wed, Mar 2:**

- James Shreeve, *The Genome War*, part two (pp. 117-288)

**Fri, Mar 4:**

- Second mid-term

**Mon, Mar 7:**

- Gisli Palsson and Paul Rabinow, “Iceland: The Case of a National Genome Project”. *Anthropology Today*, 15 (5): 14-18. October 5, 1999. (available in course packet)
- Mike Fortun, “Experiments in Ethnography and Its Performance”, February 2000. Available online at [www.mannvernd.is](http://www.mannvernd.is). (available in course packet).

**Wed, Mar 9:**

- Jenny Reardon, “The Human Genome Diversity Project: A Case Study in Coproduction”, *Social Studies of Science*, 31 (2001), 357-388. (available in course packet)

**Fri, Mar 11:**

- Discussion of genomics readings + volunteer class presentations

**Mon, Mar 14:**

- Rayna Rapp, *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus*, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-77)

**Wed, Mar 16:**

- Rayna Rapp, *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus*, Chapter 6 (pp. 129-164), + final papers due.