

## Soph 222 Fall 2004. Class Schedule

Week	Date	Class Activities	Reading assignments
1	9/1	Introduction. First person point of view on freakishness, Freaks 1932 movie & discussion Discussion of major research topic.	
2	9/8	<b>Freaky film night : Frankenstein</b>  Historical and philosophical perspectives Guest Speaker: Art historian John McEnroe on Renaissance images and paintings of freaks Case study: Sex and gender – Aristotle to Anne Fausto-Sterling	<i>Geek Love</i> , 1 <sup>st</sup> half <i>Freak Show</i> , pp. 1-118  <i>Wonders and the Order of Nature</i> , Chapter 1
3	9/15	Historical perspectives on side shows Coney Island Side Show – in class, up close and personal.  <b>Coney Island Side Show</b> – public performance 7.30pm Events Barn	<i>Geek Love</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> half <i>Learning from Strangers</i> , Chapters 1 & 2
4	9/22	Metaphysics 101: facts and values: what are the limits of realism? How are the concepts of normal/healthy and wonders/freaks constructed? Introduce survey project; question development	<i>The Social Construction of What?</i> Chapters 1 & 2. <i>The Relativity of Fact, the Objectivity of Value</i>
5	9/29	<b>Freaky film night : The Boys from Brazil</b>  How are the scientific views of what is normal constructed? What are the social goals and consequences of these categories?	<i>The Social Construction of What?</i> Chapter 3. <i>Wonders and the Order of Nature</i> , Chapter 5 <i>The State Boys Rebellion</i> , Introduction
6	10/6	Eugenics . Medicalization of ‘abnormality’ Documentary on eugenics movement in the US & compulsory sterilizations.	<i>The Biotech Century</i> p. 116-128 <i>Eugenics Past, Present and Future</i> + associated news articles Work on CSHL Eugenics Website

Week	Date	Class Activities	Reading assignments
7	10/13	Molecular genetics lab in Science Center 2091 Introduction to Biology Computing Facility Should have survey questions to run 'test' sample. Assign genetic disorders for student discussion 10/20	<i>Genetic Engineering</i> . Chapters 4& 5.  <i>Enough</i> . <i>Posthuman Future</i> . Chapters 1,5 & 6. (These readings must be completed for 10/27)
8	10/20	<b>Freaky film night - GATACCA</b>  Human genetics and development. Documentary on genetic disorders. Student led discussions of the various disorders in the readings.	<i>Human Heredity</i> . Chapters 3-7.
9	10/27	Molecular genetics – cloning, gene therapy, what is possible now, likely soon. Documentary on genetic engineering Student led discussion on regulation of genetic engineering. Discuss survey responses/ fine tune questions	<i>Genetic Engineering</i> . Chapters 6& 9. <i>Genes and Future People</i> . Chapters 2 & 3. <i>The Biotech Century</i> p. 129-197.
10	11/3	<b>Freaky film night – Rainman</b>  Neuroscience – guest speaker: Herm Lehman (Neuroscientist) Medical management of abnormality Short film on Temple Grandin: Stairway to Heaven	<i>Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat</i> . Chapters. 1, 3, 10 & 14. <i>Freaks, Geeks and Asperger's Syndrome</i> . Chapters. 1, 2, 4, 5 & 9. <i>Life as We Know it</i> . Chapters 1 & 2.
11	11/10	Medical management of abnormality: case study: conjoined twins Short film: Face to Face Two cases of separation 2003 & 2004: death and separation Student presentations: 2 student groups @ 20 min. each	<i>One of Us</i> , "Split Decisions" Readings packet on recent cases.
12	11/17	<b>Freaky film night: Brother's Keeper</b>  Extremes of humanity: social deviance. Student presentations: 3 student groups @ 20 min. each. Assemble and discuss survey responses. Guest seminar – Robert Bogdan, author of <i>Freak Show</i> .	<i>The Mismeasure of Man</i> , Chapters 1-4.  <i>Freak Show</i> , pp119-266

Week	Date	Class Activities	Reading assignments
13	12/1	<b>Freaky film night: What's Eating Gilbert Grape</b> (night TBA)  Body Dysmorphia Student presentations: 3 student groups @ 20 min. each	<i>Life-Size</i> . Physiology reading packet
14	12/8	<b>Freaky film night: The Station Master</b>  Master webpage assembly	

#### Required books:

Katherine Dunn, *Geek Love*  
 Bill McKibben, *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age*  
 Robert Bogdan, *Freak Show: Presenting Human Oddities for Amusement and Profit*  
 Ian Hacking, *The Social Construction of What*  
 Jenefer Shute, *Life-Size*

#### Supplementary books:

Francis Fukuyama, *Our Posthuman Future*  
 Michael Berube, *Life as We Know It*  
 Luke Jackson, *Freaks, Geeks and Asberger's Syndrome*  
 Lorraine Daston and Katharine Park, *Wonders and the Order of Nature*  
 Oliver Sacks, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*  
 Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*  
 P. Salant & D. Dillman. *How to Conduct your own Survey*  
 M. Boylan & K. Brown *Genetic Engineering*  
 W. Glannon *Genes and Future People*  
 M. Cummings *Human Heredity*  
 M. D'Antonio *State Boys Rebellion*

#### Freaky Films:

*Frankenstein*  
*Gattaca*  
*The Boys from Brazil*  
*Rainman*  
*What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*  
*Brother's Keeper*  
*The Station Master*

## **Requirements and Assessment:**

**35% Attendance, preparation, and participation** are required to be in the course. This is a seminar and we take discussion and the exchange of ideas seriously: there is no substitute for your weekly in-class contributions.

**15% Films and short papers on them:** Each freaky film not shown in class will be shown evenings on Sunday at 6:30 in our usual classroom.

**10% Survey:** students will be responsible for designing and administering a survey on peer attitudes towards genetic engineering of humans.

**40% Group term project:** groups of 3 students will research and report on a human physical disorder that results in affected individuals being considered freakish. The report must include both biological background of the disorder as well as personal accounts of life as an affected person. The results of your research will be shared in multiple ways: a formal paper (20%), an in-class presentation to your classmates (10%) and a webpage to be linked to a course master page that will contain the survey results and demonstrate to the Hamilton community the scintillating content and extraordinary range of this seminar.