This survey course offers an interdisciplinary and transnational examination of how bodies, knowledge and power are entangled with science and technology. We will examine how scientific discourses and technological practices generate particular and contextual notions of what the body means, how bodily difference is understood, and how this is related to political, cultural and economic power. We examine social difference, including race, class, gender, sex, sexual orientation, and national citizenship as these are constructed and represented through various technologies and scientific ways of knowing.

The goals of this course are to understand scientific and technical knowledge and practices as culturally contextualized categories of knowledge that are always situated within the politics of difference. In other words, we think through notions like scientific objectivity and technological neutrality by surveying the way research is planned and conducted, and how different applications of scientific and technical knowledge in fields like medicine, pharmaceuticals, archaeology, reproductive technologies, and public health relate to their access and outcomes in different populations and communities.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Students are expected to complete the readings for each course meeting before they attend that class, and to bring their readings the entire week for each class meeting. Readings are available through E-res unless marked by “CW” in which case they will be linked to the course website.

Grading is based on the completion of two short essays, one in-class midterm, one in-class final exam, and class participation.

**Pop quizzes:** A correct answer passes and an incorrect answer does not. Pass=retaining your participation points. No pass=one point removed from participation grade at end of course for each no pass.

**Short Essays:** (2 pages/800 words). The first essay will be due at the beginning of the fourth week of class. Essay topics will be distributed in class on the Monday of the week preceding each deadline. Think creatively, think eccentrically, but always make a clear argument grounded in references (articles, films, novels, etc.) that are properly cited by MLA or Chicago Manual of Style conventions. These should be submitted by the beginning of lecture on the day they are due. Late papers cannot be accepted (including those turned in after lecture begins). Essays will not be accepted via email.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** Format: In-class exams composed of short answer questions and short essays in response to questions selected from a list provided one week in advance.

*It is highly recommended that each student follow one US newspaper or news journal and one foreign newspaper or news journal on a regular basis. At least one exam will require the incorporation of current events and small-group discussions will utilize this exposure.*
If you wish to speak with me, I will be available before and after class, as well as in my scheduled office hours. I do not answer email. If you have an emergency, please phone my office.

**Week 1 (1/4, 1/6): Groundwork for Historical and Social Scientific Approaches to the Intersectional Study of Race**

**Week 2 (1/11, 1/13): Introduction to Studying Science, Technology and Difference**

**Week 3 (1/18, 1/20): Historical Entanglements of Science, Race, Gender and Sexuality**

**Week 4 (1/25, 1/27): Biopolitics, Class, and Public Health**
**Essay One due T. 1/25 before lecture**

**Week 5 (2/1, 2/3): Reproductive Technologies**
- *Midterm review*
Week 6 (2/8, 2/10): Medical Research and Social Difference

**T. February 8th: In-Class Midterm**

Week 7 (2/15, 2/17): Scientific Knowledge and Intellectual Property

Week 8 (2/22, 2/24): Cadavers and Organ Transplant Technology

**essay 2 due T. February 22 before lecture**

Week 9 (3/1, 3/3): Plastic Surgery and Socio-cultural (Re)Mappings of the Body

Week 10 (3/8, 3/10): Research Ethics, Access to Technology and Social Justice
Tuesday March 8th: Wrap-up and final review discussions
Thursday March 10th: **In-class final exam**