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BIOH 191.01: GLI - Human Genetics and Personalized Medicine

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Human Genetics and Personalized Medicine

3 credits Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Certel
Skaggs 393
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sarah.certel@mso.umt.edu

Office Hours: T (3:30-5), F (10-11)

Location: LA 337

Lectures: TTH, 2:10-3:30


Resources: The publisher provides online resources for students who purchase the 10th edition. Go to the provided link and set up your account.

Web Page: Additional reading assignments will be provided as PDF documents posted on the class Moodle page and/or electronically distributed to students’ University e-mail accounts.

Course Description:
This course will address two fundamental biological and societal questions; how do genes direct and/or influence our health and how do economic, ethical, and political issues affect the implementation of personalized medicine. In the first unit, the material covered will give students a practical knowledge of the principles of human genetics, which will serve as a foundation to understand inherited diseases and the application of genetic testing information. This unit will cover the basics of heredity namely what is a gene and the patterns of gene inheritance. We will also address how individual gene variation affects health risks, the interpretation of genetic tests, and how we as a society view genetic differences.

In the second part of the course, students will learn how a broad range of issues impact the application of personalized medicine. Personalized medicine is the customization of healthcare - with medical decisions, practices, and/or products being tailored to the individual patient. Advances in medical genetics are enabling individualized medicine to be practiced in a reactive measure, i.e. treatment after the signs and symptoms appear, as well as tailor preventative treatments by assessing the genetic risk factors associated with an individual’s genomic sequence. In this new era of genomic technologies, we will explore Hippocrates quote, “It is far more important to know what person the disease has than what disease the person has.” We will view the movie GATTACA and discuss whether we are more or less than our genetic diagnosis and how this information could change the way we assess ourselves. Additional topics covered in this section include: pharmacogenetics, the use of personal genetic information in clinical medicine, and ethical, legal, and social issues concerned with genetic testing. Finally, we will discuss how governmental policies affect the safety of genetic testing and the security of genetic databases.

This course will:

• Provide sufficient background to understand the biology of genes and genetic issues as they relate to family inheritance, genetic test results, and various disease conditions.
• Give students a solid foundation in genetic terminology and concept. This knowledge may be applicable to current health situations in students’ lives or can be built upon to understand future health challenges and participate knowledgeably in political discussions.

• Enable students to discuss how our genetic variations affect how we describe what makes us the same and what makes us different as human beings.

• Promote an understanding of the impact of human genetics on individuals and society.

**Students will be able to: (Learning outcomes):**

• Understand what a gene is, the information in a pedigree, and describe methods of inheritance.
• Describe the contribution genes make to the development of a specific disease or disorder.
• Describe the contribution genes, chromosomes, and transposable elements make to a unique individual.
• Analyze the purpose, strengths and limitations of current and emerging genome technologies.
• Contribute to a discussion on “race” as a social category vs. a biological category

**Course Format and Grading:** This course will 1) utilize a lecture format to teach core concepts, 2) case study examples to demonstrate and apply the core concepts, and 3) animations and videos to complement the lecture and textbook content. The first segment of each class period will be given in a lecture format while the second segment will be a discussion of the topic covered with an emphasis on personal experiences and practical implementations. Student led discussions of a NY Times article will also take place during the second half of the class period.

Exams will include multiple choice questions and short essays.

**Exams will cover at least these three components:**

**Exam I:** Students will define critical genetic terms, describe the basic methods of inheritance, and discuss genetic variation.

**Exam II:** Students will be required to describe the principles of genomic testing and how our genetic variation can affect an individual’s health.

**Comprehensive Exam:** Comprehensive questions and a short essay on the global economic and ethical implications regarding how our genetic differences and similarities affect the world and potential curing of genetic-based diseases.

**Grading:**
Points will be assigned as follows:

- Exam 1: 80 pts
- Exam 2: 80 pts
- Comprehensive Exam: 100 pts
- Pre Test: 10 pts
- Post Test: 10 pts
- Case Studies (3/20 pts): 60 pts
- Newspaper article Comments (2/20): 40 pts
- Group presentation on Personalized Medicine Issue: 60 pts
### Writing Essay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<th>Section 1: What makes us genetically the same? What makes us genetically different?</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Certel</td>
<td>1,13</td>
<td>What is Genetics?</td>
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<td>August 28</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Genes and Chromosomes II (Mosaicism)</td>
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<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>The Human Genome: who owns our DNA sequences</td>
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<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Sept 9</td>
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<td>Genes: what are mutations, polymorphisms?</td>
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<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Genes: what are they good for? (Protein)</td>
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<td>Sept 16</td>
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<td>Individual Genomes: copy number variants</td>
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<td>Sept 18</td>
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<td>Individual Genomes: Transposable Elements,</td>
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<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>Certel</td>
<td>4,6</td>
<td>Gene Relationships: Understanding Pedigrees</td>
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<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>Certel</td>
<td>4,6</td>
<td>Understanding Crosses and Pedigrees II, Review</td>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<th>Section 2: How does what makes us genetically different affect our health?</th>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Gene expression: epigenetics</td>
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<td>October 7</td>
<td>Certel</td>
<td>8, AR</td>
<td>Gene expression: epigenetics &amp; behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Gene expression: Sex Chromosomes</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
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<td>Principles of genomic technologies (GWAS), Direct-to-Consumer applications</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Woodahl (BMED)</td>
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<td>Gene Variation and Drug Response</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Disease Transmission: prions</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
<td>Wetzel (BIOL)</td>
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<td>Pesticides and Risk Factors</td>
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<td>October 28</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Genetic information regulation, Cost of Gene testing, Genetic engineering</td>
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<td>October 30</td>
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<th>Section 3: How do our genetic differences and similarities affect the world?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Movie Gattaca</td>
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<td>Certel</td>
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<td>Movie Gattaca; Discussion</td>
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<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>McCaffrey (Writing Ctr)</td>
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<td>Writing Center: Essay on Ethical Issue</td>
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<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Certel</td>
<td></td>
<td>How do we assess ourselves genetically/How do we assess others; health care, group assignments</td>
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Dec 2  Jeanne Loftus/Group Presentations  Global Issues  
Dec 4  Group Presentations  Global Issues  

**Comprehensive Exam: Ethical and Societal Implications of Genetic Engineering & Testing**

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**GLI Students must attend TWO lectures selected from the list below.**

**News in the Age of Snowden: What investigations of leaks to reporters tell us about the World**
William Glaberson, former New York Times reporter  
Monday, September 29 at 7pm in the UC Theater

**It's the Oil, Stupid: The Oily Aspects of the Current Wars in Iraq, Syria and Other Hot Spots on Five Continents**
Michael Schwartz, founding director, College of Global Studies, Stony Brook University (SUNY)  
Wednesday, October 22 at 8pm in the Dennison Theatre

**First-Year Reading Experience Book, "The Things They Carried"**
Tim O'Brien, author  
Tuesday, October 28 at 8pm in the Dennison Theatre

**Do Words Kill? Hate Speech, Propaganda and Incitement to Genocide**
Elizabeth White, Research Director of the Center for the Prevention of Genocide  
Wednesday, November 5 at 7pm in the UC Theater

**The Riddle of Sustainability: A Surprisingly Short History of the Future**
William Cronon, Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Monday, November 17 at 8pm in the Dennison Theatre

**Ukraine, Russia and the West: Crisis, Causes and Consequences**
Robert D. English, Professor and Director, School of International Relations, University of Southern California  
Monday, December 1 at 8pm in the Dennison Theatre

**In the Pavilion of Snow Oxen — Big Animals in an Increasingly Peopled World**
Joel Berger, Professor of Wildlife Conservation  
Tuesday, December 2 at 6pm in the UC North Ballroom