

**Syllabus HUMGEN 19:
How Genetics has Contributed to Racial Injustice in America and World**

Instructor: Nelson Freimer

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Guest Lecturer: Jazlyn Mooney

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Section Location/Time:

Seminar: Wednesday 3:00-3:50pm

Office Hours Location/Time:

Seminar: Monday 1:00-4:00pm

Send us an email with a time you would like to meet

Course Description:

Genetics as scientific discipline has been responsible for many discoveries that have had great impact on understanding natural world and human diseases. This field has also been responsible for great evil. In 19th century, when field was young, many prominent geneticists used scientific arguments to promulgate virulently racist and extraordinarily influential views on supposed superiority of dominant ethnic groups in Europe and North America. By early 20th century, these views became established as basis of public policy with rise of eugenics movement, which held sway until it fell into disfavor due to use by Nazis as justification for genocides. To this day, prominent scientists continue to use genetics to advance racist views, and to justify policies that maintain racial injustice. Recent developments offer hope for more equitable future, with successful efforts to recruit minority populations, in U.S. and globally, as investigators and participants in human genetics research. We will use a mixture of readings, presentations, and discussions to navigate these topics. All readings and presentations will be posted on CCLE.

Grading:

Each student is expected to **actively participate in class discussions**. Additionally, each student will give **one group presentation**, please sign-up for the week you would like to present here: You and your classmate will also need to schedule a time slot during office hours (see info above for OH) the Monday before you present to go over slides with Dr. Freimer and Dr. Mooney. The **final** will be a write-up covering some topic from the

class and include an in-class discussion.

General Rules:

- *Please Note: UCLA expectations for Fiat Lux classes are that you commit no more than 3 hours per week to the course (including the 1 hour of class time)*
- If you cannot attend class week, please send a quick email to notify us. Also, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need clarification about anything in the class.
- Please be courteous and respectful to both me and you classmates. The material in this class can be difficult to discuss and navigate. Therefore, it is important that our virtual-classroom provides a comfortable learning atmosphere.
- We may not respond to e-mails sent after 7:00pm until the following day.
 - We will respond to your email within 24-hours. If we do not, please do not hesitate to email again or find us (via the chat) after class or remind us at office hours.
 - Include **“HUMGEN 19”** in the email header so we can keep track of emails

Ground Rules for our discussions:

- Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
- Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views. (Don't just think about what you are going to say while someone else is talking.)
- Criticize ideas, not individuals.
- Commit to learning, not debating. Comment in order to share information, not to persuade.
- Avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language.
- Allow everyone the chance to speak.
- Avoid assumptions about any member of the class or generalizations about social groups. Do not ask individuals to speak for their (perceived) social group.