

Medicine, Degeneration, & Eugenics

History of Science 144

Fall 2002

Monday & Wednesday (& Friday), 11:00 AM
226 Science Center

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TF:
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Description:

In the later 19th and early 20th centuries, eugenic thinking paralleled fears of degeneration in the widespread preoccupation with the decline of Western races and cultures. This course will look at the role of scientific and especially medical "experts" in promoting both the problem of and the remedy for the decline of civilization. Our emphasis will be on the changing ideas of "otherness" as symbol and cause of degeneration, and on proposed programs for regeneration in Western European and North American cultures.

Course Requirements:

Lectures will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00-12:00 in 226 Science Center. One hour of discussion section will be scheduled (probably Friday 11:00 am). We will meet on Friday, Sept 27, at 11:00 AM to figure out sectioning details. Attendance at lecture and discussion is required. Other requirements include completion of reading and short written assignments for section, participation in discussion, a mid-term examination, a final examination, and a 10-12 page final paper.

Grading will be according to the following distribution:

Participation in Discussion Section: (including written work)	20%
Mid-Term Examination:	25%
Final Paper:	25%
Final Examination:	30%

Required Readings:

All books will be available at the COOP. All books are on reserve at Hilles and Lamont Libraries. There is also a reader of primary documents, which will be available at HPPS in the Science Center basement. Additional readings will be handed out in class.

Bowler, Peter. *Evolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989.

Jacoby, Russell, and Naomi Glauberman, eds. *The Bell Curve Debate*. NY: Random House, 1995. (Selections) ***PLEASE NOTE: THIS BOOK IS OUT OF PRINT AND IS THUS NOT REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE. SOME USED COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE COOP IF YOU WANT TO BUY THEM. OTHERWISE, READINGS FROM THIS BOOK WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.**

Kevles, Daniel. *In the Name of Eugenics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1985.

Pick, Daniel. *Faces of Degeneration*. NY; Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Proctor, Robert. *Racial Hygiene*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990.

Rafter, Nicole H. *Creating Born Criminals*. Urbana; Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1998.

Shiebinger, Londa. *Nature's Body*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.

Soloway, Richard. *Demography and Degeneration*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.

Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*. (any edition ok)

Zola, Emile. *L'Assommoir*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Weekly Lecture Schedule and Readings

(readings in sourcebook are marked with an *)

I. Progress: Civilizations, Nations, and Races

Wed Sept 18 Intro: Progress and Decline

no reading

Mon Sept 23 The Science of Difference: Classification in the 18th century

Bowler. Ch. 3

Shiebinger. Ch. 3, 4

Wed Sept 25 Lamarck, Darwin, and the Problem of Change

Bowler. Ch. 6

* Darwin, Charles. *On the Origin of Species*. (London: Murray, 1859) Ch. XIV
("Recapitulation" and "Conclusion")

* Lamarck, Jean Baptiste. *Zoological Philosophy*. (London: 1914) excerpts. (Originally
published *Philosophie zoologique*. Paris, 1809)

FRI SEPT 27 MEET TO FINALIZE SECTION TIME(S)

Mon Sept 30 Nation-Building and Imperialism

Hobsbawm, E.J. *Nations and Nationalism since 1780*. (Cambridge: Cambridge
University Press, 1990), pp. 46-100. (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

Woolf, Stuart. "Introduction" in Stewart Woolf, ed. *Nationalism in Europe, 1815 to the
Present*. London: Routledge, 1996. Pp. 1-39. (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

Renan, Ernest. "What is a Nation?" in Stewart Woolf, ed. *Nationalism in Europe, 1815 to
the Present*. London: Routledge, 1996. Pp. 48-60. (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

Wed Oct 2 The Idea of Race Before and After Darwin

Bowler. Ch. 8

Schiebinger. Ch. 5

*Darwin, Charles. *The Descent of Man*. (London: Murray, 1871) Ch. VII ("On the Races of Man"), and Ch. XXI ("General Summary and Conclusion")

* Nott, Josiah & George Giddens. *Types of Mankind*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1855. Pp. 49-61; 80-87.

Mon Oct 7 Biology and Social Change

Bowler. Ch. 10

Desmond, Adrian. "Lamarckism and Democracy: Corporations, Corruption and Comparative Anatomy in the 1830s." in James R. Moore, ed. *History, Humanity and Evolution*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. Pp. 99-130. (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

* Spencer, Herbert. "Progress: Its Law and Causes." *The Westminster Review*, 67 (April 1857), 445-465 (excerpts)

* Spencer, Herbert. *The Principles of Sociology*. (NY: Appleton, 1895.) Pt. II, Ch. II ("A Society is an Organism")

II. Decline: Nationalism, Competition, and Anxiety

Wed Oct 9 Decadance and Decline in European Culture

Pick. Ch. 1

Soloway, Ch. 1

*Nordau, Max. *Degeneration*. (NY: Appleton, 1895.) Book I, ch. 1-4.

Mon Oct 14 Columbus Day – NO CLASS

Start reading Zola. *L'Assommoir*.

Wed. Oct 16 Movie in class: *Tomorrow's Children* (1934)

** Short (2pp) page paper due in section **

Mon Oct 21 France: Depopulation & Degeneration

Pick. Ch. 2 (37-59 only); Ch. 3,

Zola. *L'Assommoir*. Entire.

Wed Oct 23 Italy: Lombroso and the Criminal

Pick. Ch. 5

*Lombroso, Cesare. *Crime. Its Causes and Remedies*. (Trans. Henry P. Horton.)
(Boston: Little, Brown, 1911). Pt. 3, Ch. 1 "Atavism and Epilepsy in Crime
and Punishment."

Mon Oct 28 England: Empire, Class, and the Deterioration of the Race

Pick. Ch. 7

Soloway. Ch. 3

Kevles. Ch. I.

* Maudsley, Henry. *The Pathology of Mind*. (London: MacMillan, 1895), pp. 78-83.

Wells. H. G. *The Time Machine* (entire)

Wed Oct 30 U.S. I: American Nervousness

Rafter. Ch. 4

*Beard, George M. *American Nervousness. Its Causes and Consequences*. (NY: Putnam,
1881). Ch. 1, 3 (pp. 96-100 only)

Mon Nov 4 U.S. II: Nativism and the Decline of the White Race

Kevles. Ch. III.

Rafter. Ch. 2, 4

*Dugdale, Richard. "Hereditary Pauperism as Illustrated in the 'Juke' Family."
Proceedings (Conference of Boards of Public Charities), (1877), 81-95.

*McCulloch, Oscar. "The Tribe of Ishmael. A Study in Social Degradation." *Proceedings*
(Conference of Charities and Correction), (1888), 154-59.

*Blackmar, Frank. "The Smoky Pilgrims." *American Journal of Sociology*, 2 (1897), 485-500.

[NOTE: Dugdale, McCulloch, and Blackmar are reprinted in: Nicole Hahn Rafter, ed. *White Trash. The Eugenic Family Studies, 1877-1919*. Boston: Northeastern Univ. Pr., 1988].

Wed Nov 6 **MID-TERM EXAM**

Mon Nov 11 **Veteren's Day -- No class**

III. Renewal: Purifying the Racial Stock

Wed Nov 13 Sports, War, Masculinity and Regeneration

Kevles. Chs. IV, V.

Soloway. Ch. 7

Putney, Clifford. *Muscular Christianity*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.
Chs. 1, 2 (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

Mon Nov 18 Eugenics: An International (European) Affair

Kevles. Ch. 1, 2, 3, VI.

Allen, Garland. "Eugenics Comes to America." In Jacoby & Glauberman, eds. *The Bell Curve Debate*, pp. 441-475 (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

Galton, Francis. "Hereditary Talent and Character." In Jacoby & Glauberman, eds. *The Bell Curve Debate*, pp. 393-409 (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

*Galton, Francis. "Eugenics: Its Definition, Scope and Aims," in *Essays in Eugenics*.
(London: The Eugenics Education Society, 1909), pp. 35-43.

Wed Nov 20 Good Breeding, Bad Breeding:
Eugenics, Birth Control, Marriage Counseling and Feminism

Soloway. Ch. 8, 9

*Popenoe, Paul. *The Conservation of the Family*. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1926. Ch. X "Inadequate Reproduction in Superior Families," and Ch. XI "Excessive Reproduction in Inferior Families."

Mon Nov 25 The Dangers of the Melting Pot:
Eugenics, IQ, and Immigration in Progressive Era America

Kevles. Ch. 7.

Thomas, William B. "Black Intellectuals on IQ Tests." In Jacoby & Glauberman, eds., pp. 510-541 (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

Stoddard, Lothrop. "The Rising Tide of Color." In Jacoby & Glauberman, eds., pp. 553-560. (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

*Jennings, H.S. "Undesirable Aliens." *Survey*, 51 (1923), 309-312, 364.

*Castle, W.E. "Biological and Social Consequences of Race-Crossing." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 9 (1926), 145-156.

Wed Nov 27 **Thanksgiving. No class**

Mon Dec 2 Defective Delinquents and Eugenic Sterilization

Kevles. IX

Rafter. Ch. 7, 8

* Oswald, Frances. "Eugenical Sterilization in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology*, 36:1 (July 1930), 65-73

Wed Dec 4 Nazi Science I: Race Hygiene

Proctor. Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4

Mon Dec 9 Nazi Science II: From Eugenics to Genocide

Proctor. Ch. 5, 6, 7

Selected Letters of Doctor Friedrich Mennecke. (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

Hitler, Adolf. *Mein Kampf*. (TO BE DISTRIBUTED)

Wed Dec 11 The Decline of Eugenics

Kevles. Ch. XI, XII

Rafter. Ch. 9

Soloway. Ch. 13, 14 (pp. 350-362 only)

IV. Conclusion: The Sciences of Difference

Mon Dec 16 I.Q. and heredity revisited

(The following are in Jacoby & Glauberman, *The Bell Curve Debate* TO BE
DISTRIBUTED

Kamin, Leon. "The Pioneers of IQ Testing," pp. 476-509.

Terman, Lewis M. "The Measurement of Intelligence," pp. 542-552.

Lippman, Walter. "The Mental Age of Americans," pp. 561-565.

Herrnstein, Richard J. "IQ," pp. 599-616.

Jensen, Arthur R. "The Differences are Real," pp. 617-629.

Dobzhansky, Theodosius. "Differences are not Deficits," pp. 630-639.

Gould, Stephen Jay. "Mismeasure by Any Measure," pp. 3-13.

Wed Dec 18 Up and Down the Phylo-Genetic Chain

No reading

Wed Jan 8 Final Paper Due

Final Exam (time and location to be announced)