

AY 2012-13 Common Reading Faculty Lecture Assessment

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A Program of the University College

Washington State University

The following information is a compilation of the assessment information gathered from student attendees at the seventeen Common Reading Faculty Lectures held during AY 2012-13 to complement Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. A full listing of the year's events follows the assessment summary.

Attendance:

Attendance at the seventeen Common Reading Tuesdays lectures and films this year was 2,718, up somewhat from last year (2,453 at seventeen events). Attendance at the nine fall events was 1,834; attendance at the eight spring events was 844. Average attendance over the year was 168 students per event, again higher in fall (225 average) than spring (106 average). For the year as a whole, the most highly attended lectures were those by Patricia Heberer (US Holocaust Memorial Museum), Mike Edwards (English), and Marianne Kinkel (Fine Arts); for the spring alone, the highest attended were those by Kinkel, Kevin Bales (outside speaker on contemporary slavery), and the "Gather at the Table" presentation by outside speakers Tom DeWolf and Sharon Morgan.

There was also strong student attendance at the January lecture by author David Lacks and Jeri Lacks-Whye (total attendance of approximately 850). Attendance at the Beasley lecture was smaller than has been the case in previous years, perhaps because of its placement in spring semester when fewer classes were using the book. Nonetheless, this event added to the year's total attendance count of over 3,500.

In addition, the Common Reading Program partnered with a variety of other WSU units to promote seven related events and outside speakers for which I have no attendance counts. These were sponsored by the Foley Institute, the Libraries, Equity and Diversity, the School of Music, Residence Life, and the Department of Critical Culture, Gender and Race Studies. These events sponsored by other units provided students with additional opportunities for engagement with the book from various perspectives and illustrate the power of a common focus for university discussion. The total attendance at Common Reading related events thus is actually much higher than the 3,500 from the Common Reading-sponsored events alone.

This year also marked a new partnership with WSU's Global Campus, which not only sponsored two of the events ("Gather at the Table" and Kevin Bales), but also taped several of the events and produced online webinars with speakers to make Common Reading discussions and events accessible for distance students.

Indeed, partnerships as a whole—with WSU Global Campus, the College of Arts and Sciences, Equity and Diversity, the Foley Institute, the School of Molecular Biosciences, the School of Music, the Libraries, Residence Life, and the departments of History and of Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies—all have been enormously important in funding and hosting events that extend the Common Reading Program in a wide variety of important domains.

Evaluation:

Of the total number who attended the faculty lecture series, we received evaluations from approximately 60% of attendees. These evaluations provide the data for the following categories.

Who Came and Why:

The great majority of students who attended were again freshmen (80%). Virtually all (90%) attended because of a class requirement or for extra credit, with most (62%) attending because of History 105. Other classes that regularly sent students included various CES and Women's Studies courses, Geology 101, English 101, and Science 101. The majority (68%) reported that they either had attended or planned to attend other Common Reading events.

Completion of the Book:

This year we also asked how much of the book students have read at the point of the lecture they attend. Overall, an average of 61% reported having read at least some of the book: 26% reported having read less than half, 18% reported reading half or more, and 17% reported having read all. The aggregate numbers, however, do not reflect the shift that occurred both semesters, with the percentage of students who had read the book doubling over the course of the semester. In each semester, those indicating they had read at least a portion of the book was about 30%; by semester's end that figure rose to an average of 68%. This most likely largely reflects class use of the book. In addition, it should be noted that several classes that do not assign the book do make use of the lecture series for extra credit.

The Assessment Questions:

We ask three assessment questions to provide us with students' responses to the events they attend. For each statement, the majority of responses were positive—even though students were almost always attending because of a class rather than out of personal interest. Likewise, by far the smallest category of responses were those that were negative. This seems to indicate, as has been the case in previous years, that once students attend a lecture most find it engaging in one or more ways.

1. *"I found this event interesting."*

Positive responses (agree or strongly agree)	67%
Neutral responses	24%
Negative responses (disagree or strongly disagree)	9%.

On this statement, the lecture that received the highest positive response rate for the year overall was the Kevin Bales lecture on contemporary slavery, with a 93% positive response rate. Other events with particularly high response rates to this statement were those by Mary Sanchez-Lanier on the intersections of HeLa cells, the HPV virus, and cancer; the screening/discussions of the "Immortal" episode of *Law and Order* and the documentary "In Sickness and in Wealth"; and the presentation by Tom DeWolf and Sharon Morgan.

2. *"I'm inspired to learn more about this topic."*

Positive responses (agree or strongly agree)	45%
Neutral responses	36%
Negative responses (disagree or strongly disagree)	19%

On this statement, the lecture event that received the highest positive response rates for the year overall was that by Mary Sanchez-Lanier, with an 83% positive response rate. Other lectures with particularly high response rates to this statement were the presentation by Tom DeWolf and Sharon Morgan, and the screening/discussion of "In Sickness and in Wealth."

3. *"This event furthered my understanding of an issue in the book."*

Positive responses (agree or strongly agree)	57%
Neutral responses	28%
Negative responses (disagree or strongly disagree)	15%

On this statement, the lecture event with the highest positive response rate for the year overall was the screening/discussion of "Immortal," with a 71% positive response rate. Other events with particularly high positive response rates to this statement were the lecture by Rich King on the historical context, by Bill Kabasenche on bioethics, by Mary Sanchez-Lanier, and by Jeff Peterson on cultural miscommunication.

The WSU Common Reading Program, a program of the University College
Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
AY 2012-2013 Schedule

WSU Library Guide for *The Immortal Life*: <http://libguides.wsulibs.wsu.edu/henrietta>

August:

Wednesday, August 16, 11-1 pm, Common Reading Week of Welcome activity in Reunion space, CUB ground floor

We'll be leading a facilitated discussion using short video clips from a documentary *Unnatural Causes*, which explores how income inequality, race, and place all contribute to poor health outcomes. (Attended by 30 students.)

Tuesday, August 21, 7 pm, Todd Auditorium (Todd 116): “‘Immortal’: (Your Common Reading Topics) Ripped from the Headlines”

So you're reading one version of the Henrietta Lacks story in your Common Reading book. How would a popular TV show base a story on a “similar” person? Come watch the May 2010 *Law & Order* episode to see how Hollywood tackled the task. How does popular media reinterpret the story? What issues remain the same? What's changed? And how might the episode itself perpetuate the issue of crediting (or not crediting) sources? This hour will be both fun and thought-provoking. (Attended by 150 students)

Tuesday, August 28, 7 pm, Todd 116 (Todd Auditorium): Rich King (Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies) on “Race, Racism, and Science: Putting Henrietta Lacks and her Story in Context”

This presentation seeks to put Henrietta Lacks in context. It places special emphasis on issues of race and racism. On the one hand, it details the social force of racial difference during the first half of the 20th century. On the other hand, it explores the long history of race and science. Ultimately, the presentation will deepen understandings of Lacks and her lingering relevance for us. (Attended by 170 students)

September:

Tuesday, September 18, 7 pm, Todd 130: Tom Salsbury (Education) on “Cross-Cultural Awareness in Participant Observation”

Presenter Tom Salsbury views Rebecca Skloot as an author who models for her readers what it means to be a participant observer in ethnographic research. As Salsbury notes, “Skloot is extraordinarily successful in her work in large part because of the respect she shows the subjects of her study. Despite the enormous differences in socio-economic status, education, language, race and culture, she is accepted into the Henrietta Lacks family and community. How did she do this?” In this session, the presenter will take participants through activities that address the issue of cross-cultural awareness. Session participants should come prepared to free write, work in small groups, and share their ideas. (Attended by 68 students)

October:

Tuesday, October 9, 7 pm, Todd 130: Mike Edwards (English) on “Who Owns Your Information”

Rebecca Skloot describes how HeLa cells have produced enormously valuable scientific and medical information, and her book itself is an example of the way that information about a person and a family can carry enormous economic value. Yet Henrietta Lacks herself never saw any economic benefit from what she produced. Mike Edwards notes this raises many associated questions: How much do we own of the information we produce? How is it that Facebook and Google can harvest and sell the informational traces that we leave behind in our interactions on the internet, when we're the ones creating that information? How is it that we can benefit by writing papers and citing sources that other people have published? What do we mean when we talk about “intellectual property”? Dr. Edwards, senior chair of the Intellectual Property Caucus of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, will talk about the issues of intellectual property that students encounter—both as novice researchers and as research subjects. (Attended by 275 students)

Tuesday, October 16, 7 pm, place Todd 130: Panel Presentation on “Who Tells Whose Story, and Who Decides Whether It’s True?” with moderator T.V. Reed (Buchanan Distinguished Professor of English and American Studies), Natali Magaña (undergraduate Spanish major), John Streamas, (Associate Professor of Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies), and David Warner (Instructor in Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies).

As described by panel organizer John Streamas, “Why does it matter that a privileged white woman wrote *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*? In an ideal world, it would not. But for most of American history the stories of women, people of color, and the poor have been told by privileged whites. This panel examines the dangers of those unequal narrative relationships, dangers that persist even today, in a media whose owners are almost all white, in a politics whose old white men dictate the fates of masses of incarcerated young black and brown men, in universities where students of color are recruited but not retained, and in a culture whose clever white storytellers bend truths and realities at the expense of historically marginalized peoples.” (Attended by 194 students)

Thursday, October 18, 4-5:30 pm, CUE 202: Foley Institute Symposium on “Reproductive Health Rights and Religious Freedom” featuring Leslie Francis (leading expert on law and bioethics at University of Utah), Dorothy McBride (Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Florida Atlantic University), Bill Kabasenche (Philosophy, WSU), and Thomas Spencer (Center for Reproductive Biology and Animal Sciences, WSU)

This panel—part of the Foley Institute’s ongoing symposia series on Science, Ethics, and Public Policy—will discuss the issue of religious freedom in the context of the federal contraception mandate that requires employers to provide health insurance plans to their employees that includes access to all contraceptives approved by the FDA. Common Reading Stamp available.

Thursday, October 25, 7 pm, CUE 203: David Parry (University of Texas, Dallas) on "Protecting Knowledge Rights"

Dave Parry is Assistant Professor of Emerging Media and Communications at the University of Texas at Dallas. His work combines a profound understanding of emerging media and its social ramifications with a focus on how traditional institutions (such as higher education) are being altered as our information society becomes less anchored to print. Dr. Parry writes for several online resources including his own blog, academhack.org. An open access advocate, his work has been featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, NPR, and *US News and World Report*. This is the keynote address for Open Access Week,

being sponsored by the WSU Libraries. More information about Open Access Week and other OA week events can be found at <http://libguides.wsulibs.wsu.edu/openaccessweek> . (Attended by 130.)

Monday, October 29, 3 pm, CUB 212 (Jr Ballroom West): Dr. Stanley Gartler , Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Genome Studies, University of Washington, on “Cell Contamination, Scientific Ethics, and Research”

Molecular biologist and human geneticist Dr. Stanley Gartler was the researcher who in 1966 discovered that HeLa cells had contaminated most other known immortal human cell lines. Rebecca Skloot terms this discovery the “HeLa Bomb.” As readers of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* know, Gartler’s discovery, based on genetic research, had profound impacts both for human cell research and for the Lacks family who were first contacted by researchers as a result. Dr. Gartler will talk about his own research, who owns human tissue once it’s no longer part of its original body, what is fair compensation for such tissue, and the story Skloot tells in her book. His thoughts, he says, “may surprise some listeners.” Co-sponsored by the School of Molecular Biosciences. (Attended by 227)

November:

Monday, November 5, noon to 1 pm, CUE 518: Brownbag discussion for interested faculty and graduate students with Patricia Heberer on research methods and findings. (Attended by 22)

Monday, November 5, 7 pm, Todd 116 (Todd Auditorium): Patricia Heberer, Historian at the Centre for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC on “Giving a Face to Faceless Victims: Profiles of Disabled Victims of the Nazi ‘Euthanasia’ Program”

From October 1939 until the final days of World War II, the “euthanasia” (T4) program and its corollary operations claimed the lives of an estimated 200,000 disabled patients residing in institutional settings throughout Germany and in certain regions of German-occupied Europe. Dr. Heberer’s research asks, “Who were the victims of Nazi ‘euthanasia’ policy? Until recently, relatively little research has attempted to reconstruct the lives and fates of T4 victims. Utilizing patient files from the *Bezirkskrankenhaus Kaufbeuren*, formerly a notorious ‘euthanasia’ facility near Augsburg, this presentation will offer a much-needed perspective to a field in which the analysis of process and perpetrator often precludes important questions about the victims themselves.” Dr. Heberer’s exploration of Kaufbeuren patient-file collection offers case studies documenting the lives and deaths of male and female patients at the facility and providing faces to the statistics. Dr. Heberer’s lecture is being cosponsored by the WSU Department of History and by the Campus Outreach Lecture Program of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, supported by the generosity of Alan Solomon, MD. (Attended by 420)

Tuesday, November 13, 7 pm, place Todd 130: Bill Kabasench (Philosophy) on “What’s Your Body Worth? The Ethics of Commodifying Human Tissues.”

Contemporary biomedicine and biotechnology make use of human tissues in a variety of ways. Some are used in assisted reproductive technologies. Some are used in research. In both research and fertility contexts, market values have come to determine the worth of these tissues. “What does this imply,” Kabasench asks, “about the worth of those from whom these tissues come? What, from an ethical perspective, counts as properly valuing human beings, and what does this imply for tissues taken from them?” This presentation will consider these issues and look at a few prominent cases where these questions come to light. (Attended by 300+)

January:

Thursday, January 10, 7 pm, CUE 203: authors and speakers Tom DeWolf and Sharon Morgan on “Gather at the Table: The Healing Journey of a Daughter of Slavery and a Son of the Slave Trade”

Sharon Leslie Morgan is a black woman from Chicago’s South Side, a descendent of slaves on both sides of her family; Thomas Norman DeWolf is a white man from rural Oregon who descends from the largest slave-trading dynasty in US history. Over a three-year period, the pair traveled thousands of miles, both overseas and through twenty-seven states, visiting ancestral towns, courthouses, cemeteries, plantations, antebellum mansions, and historic sites. The result is a revelatory testament to the possibilities that open up when people commit to truth, justice, and reconciliation. DeWolf and Morgan, who have coauthored the book *Gather at the Table*, offer an inspiring vision and a powerful model for healing individuals and communities. As Morgan and DeWolf write, “We embarked on this journey because we believe America must overcome the racial barriers that divide us, the barriers that drive us to strike out at one another out of ignorance and fear. To do nothing is unacceptable.” This presentation—which incorporates dramatic readings, audiovisual elements, and audience participation—is being sponsored by the WSU Global Campus. For more on these speakers and their book and presentation, see <http://gatheratthetable.net/> (Attended by 112 people in Pullman, and by over 100 more online.)

Tuesday, January 15, 7 pm, CUE 203: screening of documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*

In this feature documentary, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors, the DeWolf family, were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide. One of the DeWolf family descendants who is part of the documentary, Tom DeWolf, is speaking with Sharon Morgan on January 10. This hour-long documentary is a follow-up to their visit and an opportunity to discover more about the story of this family and their journey to discover, understand, and act upon their family history. (Attended by 51 people.)

Thursday, January 17, 12-1:15 pm, Foley’s Speaker Room, Bryan Hall 308: Allen Buchanan (Philosophy and Law at Duke University) on “Science, Ethics, and Democracy”

What are the ethical issues raised when making policy decision that are informed by scientific knowledge? Does the relationship between science and democracy require taking a stand on ethical issues? Allan Buchanan is James B. Duke Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Law at Duke University. He is also a Distinguished Research Associate at the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford and a Research Professor at the Center for Philosophy of Freedom at the University of Arizona in Tucson. His research and teaching are mainly in bioethics, with special emphasis on the application of genome science-based technologies to humans. This event is part of The Foley Institute’s Coffee and Politics Series; they will be serving pizza for attendees. Please RSVP to relgar@wsu.edu. (The Common Reading stamp will be available for students needing verification of attendance.)

Tuesday, January 22 at 12:30 and 5 pm, and January 23 at 5 pm: Tom Salsbury (Education) will be hosting an online webinar on “Cross-Cultural Awareness” for students in the Global Campus. This is a reprise of Dr. Salsbury’s fall presentation on the Pullman campus. Pullman students are welcome to participate but must register ahead of time at <https://orgsync.com/59888/events> (Future webinars related to the Common Reading will be announced as they are scheduled.) Contact global.connections@wsu.edu for questions and to verify student participation

Wednesday, January 23, 11 am, CUB Junior Ballroom: Invited small group discussion with the Lacks family

(attended by 54 faculty and students from classes using the book)

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 pm, Beasley Coliseum: A moderated discussion with the Lacks Family

This moderated discussion is an opportunity for the WSU community to hear from members of the Lacks family—David (Sonny) Lacks and Jeri Lacks-Whye, a son and granddaughter of Henrietta Lacks . The event is free and open to the public. A book signing will follow on the Beasley Concourse. (Evening lecture attended by 800).

Thursday, January 24, 4-6 pm, CUB Senior Ballroom: WSU Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Celebration

The discussion started by the Lacks family on Wednesday will continue during the Jan. 24 celebration, when David Leonard, associate professor and chair of WSU's Critical Culture, Gender and Race Studies Department, delivers the keynote speech: "Dr. King's Dream, Body Politics and the Continual War on Women of Color." Body politics refers to the practices and policies through which powers of society regulate the human body, as well as the struggle over the degree of individual and social control of the body. Leonard will examine links between King's legacy, the life of Henrietta Lacks, the historical experience of African-American women and social justice. The celebration also will feature performances by the WSU School of Music faculty jazz ensemble Jazz Northwest, the University Singers and God's Harmony Gospel Choir. Winners of the MLK Distinguished Service Awards will be presented and, in coordination with the WSU Center for Civic Engagement, participants in the MLK Day of Service will be recognized.

The MLK community celebration is sponsored by the WSU Culture and Heritage Houses and receives support from the WSU Visual, Performing and Literary Arts Committee (VPLAC).

Monday-Thursday, January 28-31, 4-9 pm daily, Gannon Goldsworthy Hall: "2013 Tunnel of Oppression: Be the Light," sponsored by Department of Residence Life

The Tunnel of Oppression is an interactive learning experience for all members of the WSU and Pullman community. Put on annually by students and staff from Residence Life, the event's purpose is to give people firsthand knowledge of the discrimination that occurs today; it is intended to stimulate thoughts, feelings, and emotions around the issues and images presented. The event takes groups on a tour through a series of rooms where different kinds of injustice and forms of oppression are acted out, presented, and/or depicted. After going through the Tunnel, participants are brought into a room for discussion and small group de-brief. Attendees should anticipate spending about an hour experiencing the Tunnel. For more information, see <http://reslife.wsu.edu/tunnel> Common Reading stamps will be available for students. (Attended by over 1,000 students)

February:

Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 pm, CUB Auditorium: Kevin Bales (Professor of Contemporary Slavery, University of Hull) on "New Slavery in the Global Economy"

Kevin Bales is President of Free the Slaves (www.freetheslaves.net), and Professor of Contemporary Slavery at the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, University of Hull.

Desmond Tutu called his book *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* “a well-researched, scholarly and deeply disturbing expose of modern slavery.” In 2008 *Utne Reader* named Bales one of “fifty visionaries who are changing your world;” the Association of British Universities named his work one of “100 World-Changing Discoveries.” The film based on *Disposable People*, which he co-wrote, won the Peabody and two Emmys. Bales has advised the US, British, Irish, Norwegian, and Nepali governments. In 2008 he was invited to address the Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. In 2007 he published *Ending Slavery: How We Free Today’s Slaves*, a roadmap for the global eradication of slavery. In 2008, with Zoe Trodd, he published *To Plead Our Own Cause: Personal Stories by Today’s Slaves*; and with eight Magnum photographers, *Documenting Disposable People: Contemporary Global Slavery*. In 2009, with Ron Soodalter, he published *The Slave Next Door: Modern Slavery in the United States*. He is currently writing a book on the relationship of slavery and environmental destruction; and with Jody Sarich, a book exploring forced marriage worldwide. (Attended by 237 people on the Pullman campus.) This presentation is being sponsored by the WSU Global Campus.

Monday-Wednesday, February 11 (12:00 pm), 12 (6:00 pm), and 13 (12:00 pm): Bill Kabasenche (Philosophy) webinar on "Commodifying Human Tissues" for students in the Global Campus (all WSU students welcome).

This is a reprise of Dr. Kabasenche’s fall presentation on the Pullman campus. Pullman students are welcome participate but must register ahead of time. For information, to RSVP to the event, and to attend, please visit <https://orgsync.com/59888/events/493884>. Contact global.connections@wsu.edu for questions and to verify student participation.

Tuesday, February 12, 7 pm, CUE 203: Mary Sanchez-Lanier (MBioS and PHASE) on “HeLa cells, a Virus, a Sexually Transmitted Disease, and Cancer: The Intersections of Health Care and Basic Science, of Disease and Infection, and the Cells of Henrietta Lacks.”

Cervical cancer killed Henrietta Lacks. Sixty years later we have pap smears, viral detection techniques, and a vaccine, which together either have already or will reduce the number of deaths attributable to cervical cancer. What does this mean to women’s health care in the United States? What does this mean for men? The virus that infected Henrietta Lacks, the human papillomavirus, continues to “live” in her cells. What does this mean to the HeLa cells and the people that work with those cells? What does that mean to our understanding of cervical cancer? That same virus has been shown to infect more than 50% of students on college campuses. As a student, is this a concern? The intersection of health care and basic science, of disease and infection, and the cells of Henrietta Lacks will look at medicine that is as important to you today as it has been in the story of Henrietta Lacks. (Attended by 51)

Monday, February 25, 5:30 pm, CUE 203: Alondra Nelson (Columbia University) on "Henrietta Lacks in Context: African American Responses to Medical Discrimination in the 20th Century"

Dr. Alondra Nelson (<http://alondranelson.com/>) teaches sociology and gender studies at Columbia University. She writes about the intersections of science, technology, medicine and inequality. Her most recent book is the award winning [*Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination*](#). Her next book will be titled *The Social Life of DNA: Race and Reconciliation after the Genome*. Dr. Nelson’s presentation is sponsored by the WSU Department of Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies.

Tuesday, February 26, 8 pm, Bryan Hall: “Singing for Justice: Songs of the American Civil Rights Movement” (WSU School of Music event)

In the American civil rights movement, singing helped spread a message difficult for many to hear otherwise. It inspired and empowered those advocating and participating in nonviolent protest.

Through song and narration, the cantata will guide the audience from Rosa Parks' historic bus ride through the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Music will include "Wade in the Water," "A Change is Gonna Come," "I'm On My Way to Freedom Land" and more. This work in an original cantata composed by Marc Robinson, director of WSU's Culture and Heritage Houses, and Dean Luethi, WSU assistant professor of music.

March:

Tuesday, March 5, 7 pm, Todd 216: screening of PBS documentary *In Sickness and in Wealth*

What connections exist between healthy bodies, healthy bank accounts, and skin color? Four individuals from different walks of life demonstrate how one's position in society – shaped by social policies and public priorities – affects health. In this hour-long documentary, filmmakers travel to Louisville, Kentucky, not to examine health care but to discover what makes us sick in the first place. The lives of a CEO, lab supervisor, janitor and unemployed mother illustrate how social class shapes access to power, resources and opportunity, resulting in a health-wealth gradient. On average, people at the top live longer, healthier lives. Those at the bottom are more disempowered, get sicker more often and die sooner. Most of us fall somewhere in between. We also see how racial inequality imposes an additional risk burden on people of color. Solutions being pursued in Louisville and elsewhere focus not on more pills but on more equitable social policies. (Attended by 27 students.)

Tuesday, March 26, 7 pm, CUE 203: Marianne Kinkel (Fine Arts) on "Shifting Perceptions: Anti-Prejudice Cartoons and Air Age Cartography"

This presentation will feature Dr. Kinkel's research on anti-prejudice cartoons of the 1940s, which resulted in a recent exhibit at the Free Museum of Dallas. In this work Kinkel explores the contributions of artists in remapping American racial attitudes during the Second World War and the postwar period through cartoons, comic books, and animated films that engaged what Gunnar Myrdal famously called the American Dilemma, the failure of America to recognize the contradiction between its ideals of democracy and its practices of racial and religious discrimination. The cartoons she will talk about vividly exposed — and grappled with — this contradiction. Many of their anti-prejudice cartoons advanced the emerging discourse that all races were physically and mentally equal. Contesting entrenched views of a hierarchy of races, some of these cartoons proved to be so controversial that they were debated in congress and banned from use in the U.S. military. *Shifting Perceptions* considers how these artists, experimented with the graphic language of cartoons to represent the discourse of racial equality, promote religious tolerance, and deflate white American notions of racial superiority. (Attended by 262)

April:

Tuesday, April 2, 7 pm, CUE 203: Judy Meuth (Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies) on "Effects of Scientific Constructions of Gender and Race on Reproductive Health"

In this presentation, Meuth will explore science's intense interest in and constructions of gender and race. The "Woman Question" and the "Race Question" became the focus of scientific inquiries in periods of political upheaval, economic change, and colonial expansion. Seen as an authority on objective truth, science was recruited by governments to settle conflicting ideologies and claims on the natural characteristics of genders and races. Science's theories constructed not only identities but also determined hierarchical relationships between groups of people. The theories influenced social institutions including the family, labor, government, and medicine, and thus had far reaching implications on groups of people. In the realm of reproductive health, scientific constructions of gender and race have played a powerful role and continue to impact reproductive health ideology, policy, and outcomes in people's lives. (Attended by 99 people)

Tuesday, April 9, 7 pm, CUE 203: Jeff Peterson (Communication) on miscommunication in healthcare settings

It has commonly been cited that 7 minutes is the average time a doctor spends in one-on-one face time with a patient (though recent studies report it has gone up to 10.7 minutes!). Thus, in that amount of time a lot of information has to be shared for the health care professional to be able to do her job and for the patient to feel satisfied in the care that he or she is being given. However, this process can be complicated because of miscommunication that can also often occur because of cultural differences in how people see health care, the role of the doctor and the patient, and just in the overall way people talk to each other about health and illness. In this presentation, Peterson discusses some of these cultural miscommunications that can occur and you can decide for yourself whether or how much things have changed since Henrietta Lacks' day. (Attended by 89 people)

Tuesday, April 16, CUE 203: Marsha Turnbull and Mapuana Antonio (Health and Wellness) on student health and STDs

Henrietta Lacks did not have access to knowledge about preventative behaviors a person now may take to decrease the risk of cervical cancer and other medical concerns. Significant technological advancements in medicine have also been made since Henrietta's time; these developments have impacted humanity and may essentially be attributed to HeLa cells. This discussion will explore the way student behaviors are shaped by prevention and technological advances and will consider the implications for those with limited access to these developments. The ethics behind medical confidentiality and the assumptions of getting tested will be discussed, while addressing the question, "how confidential are your results." Lastly, the discussion will provide useful resources that are available to students in the Palouse region.

Suggested Media:

Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? (PBS documentary, 2008, WSU dvd #2540). This 7-part documentary series explores how income inequality, race, and place all contribute to poor health outcomes in a variety of ways. An excellent array of resources and discussion questions are included on the series' website: http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/episode_descriptions.php

Miss Evers' Boys (HBO movie 1997, WSU dvd #3908). This film, starring Alfre Woodard and Laurence Fishburne, is based on the true story of the decades-long Tuskegee experiment.

Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North (PBS documentary, 2008, owned by WSU Vancouver). In the feature documentary, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors, the DeWolf family, were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide. One of the DeWolf family descendants who is part of the documentary, Tom DeWolf, is speaking with Sharon Morgan on January 10. This dvd includes both the full 86 minute documentary and a 51 minute abridged version.