

## MHS 1001.01 Genes, Disability and Parenthood

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R 4:10-5:40pm (one 50-min. session: 1/12; eight weekly 90-min. sessions: 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/16)

### Course Description

The Common seminar explores the intriguing and at times controversial intersection between genetics, disability and parenting. To what extent are parents able to choose their children? What are the implications of having that choice? How does society view disability? What impact do society's views of disability have on the decisions made by soon-to-be parents? We will provide students in this course with a foundation in genetics, genetic counseling and emerging genetic technologies to support thoughtful exploration of the issues raised by these technologies and the subsequent societal impact. We will explore in breadth experiences across different conditions and disorders with genetic causes and in depth, the experiences of a few specific families, both through assigned reading and by inviting a family to the class to share their experiences.

### Course Outline In Brief

Date	Topic	Facilitator
01/12/17	Introduction to Genes, Disability, Parenthood (50min)	Dudek
01/19/17	Genetics 101 & Genetic Counseling	Grabarits
01/26/17	The Family	Slamon
02/02/17	Disability in America	Grabarits
02/09/17	Choosing Parenthood, Choosing Children	Slamon
02/16/17	Parenting a Child with a Disability	Slamon
02/23/17	Prenatal Testing and Screening	Boehm & Dudek
03/02/17	The Future of Genetic Testing	Grabarits
03/16/17	Wrap-up	ALL

### Evaluation

Class Participation	50%
Initial Impressions Paper	10%
Final 3-5 page paper (based on journaling)	40%

Much of the participation grade for the class will come from student's demonstration of having completed the reading and in-class thought questions. All readings will be listed in the syllabus for each class.

### Required Reading

Andrew Solomon, *Far from the Tree*