Following what some political theorists consider to be the evolution of civil, political, and social citizenship, medical sociologists, science studies scholars, and political sociologists have argued that modern democratic societies have entered a new era of biological citizenship. Based upon some shared biological characteristic—such as exposure to biological contaminants, physical disability, disease prognosis, or genetic predisposition—individuals may make a claim on the state for recognition and rights. Similarly, states may demand responsibilities of its subjects based upon these shared biological features. In what ways are ideas about citizenship and the relations between state and subject being reconfigured around ideas of biological difference? Are rights claims rooted in biology the basis for expanding individual rights or greater state control and exclusion? This course will explore these and other questions by delving into readings from sociologists, political scientists, and anthropologists on studies of science policy, medical activism, post-genomic race, drug development, and more.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Gain theoretical and empirical knowledge of biological citizenship
2. Critically analyze sociological research on the topic
3. Develop research questions and conduct original research on the topic

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.
COURSE LOGISTICS

Course Readings:
I will upload most of the readings on Sakai, however I urge you to buy and/or borrow hard copies of the following books, available at the usual online book vendors:


Course Requirements:

Participation (15%)
A successful seminar requires the full participation of all members. I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and to engage in dialogue.

Weekly reading memos (20%)
Submit 2-page memo on the week’s readings and topic. Memos are due Tuesdays at 8 pm on Sakai, weeks 2 through 12 (10 memos; no memo week 4).

Facilitate discussion of readings for two weeks (15%)
I will distribute a sign-up sheet on the first day of class. On the Wednesday before the class you will facilitate (by 8 pm), distribute a list of three questions to encourage conversation. Incorporate students’ weekly memos.

Final paper and presentation (50%)
Write an 18-20-page paper (not including appendix or references) exploring a theme or topic from the course. There are three parts:

1. Proposal for your final paper, graded pass/fail. The proposal should be approximately 2 pages long and describes your thesis, research questions, and the methods you will use (include 3-5 references). DUE Friday November 15 at 5 pm on Sakai. (5%)

2. In-class presentation of final paper on Thursday December 5. Twelve to 15-minute PowerPoint presentation, followed by a 5 to10-minute Q&A session. (5%)

3. Final paper. DUE Monday December 16 at 5 pm on Sakai. (40%)
COURSE SCHEDULE
*(Subject to change)*

Week 1: September 5
*Introduction: What is citizenship?*


Week 2: September 12
*What is citizenship?*

- Bellamy, *Citizenship*, chapters 4-5.

Week 3: September 19
*Biopolitics and biosociality*


Week 4: September 26
*No Class Meeting*

- Begin reading materials for weeks 5 and 6

Week 5: October 3
*What is biological citizenship?*


**Week 6: October 10**

*What is biological citizenship? (Cont’d)*


**Week 7: October 17**

*What is genetic citizenship?*


**Week 8: October 24**

*Biological citizenship as health activism*


Week 9: October 31

**Biological citizenship and representation**


Week 10: November 7

**Biological citizenship as form of nation building**


Week 11: November 14

**Biological citizenship and state control of immigration**


Week 12: November 21

Limits of biological citizenship


PAPER PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15 AT 5 PM ON SAKAI

Week 13: November 28 – NO CLASS – Happy Thanksgiving!
Tuesday November 26 is designated a Thursday schedule day. However, we will NOT meet this week.

Week 14: December 7
In-Class Presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE MONDAY DECEMBER 16 AT 5 PM ON SAKAI