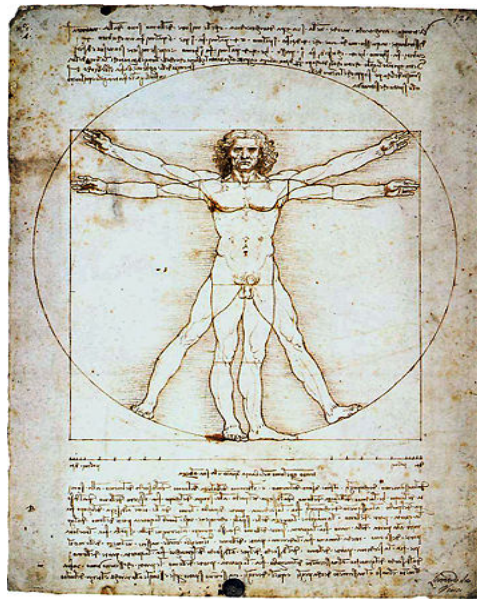


Biopolitics: Nature, Power, Life

American Studies 520



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Professor Jake Kosek
Ortega Hall 315

Thursday 2-5pm

This course brings some of the most provocative and challenging contemporary political and social theory into conversation with the cultural politics of nature and the environment. Specifically, the course sets out to work through Foucault's notions of power, sovereignty and biopolitics as a means of critically rethinking contemporary approaches to science and technology, health and environmental politics. This reading-intensive seminar is intended to help those interested in social and political theory develop a deeper understanding of centrality of the politics of nature in society and to guide those interested in environmental politics towards a broader understanding of the cultural and political dimensions and domains of nature. This course challenges essentialist ideas of the human,

nature, life, and sovereign power while at the same time exploring the limits of poststructuralist critiques that read the materiality of objects and bodies primarily through epiphenomenal understandings of culture, discourse, and social constructivism, thus disavowing the roles of matter, biology, and non-human actors.