

## MCB 198: Systemic Bias in Bioethics (Spring 2023)

**Instructor:** Alexis Roberts Huggis

**Class Information:** Tuesdays 1:10-2:00PM in Storer 2342

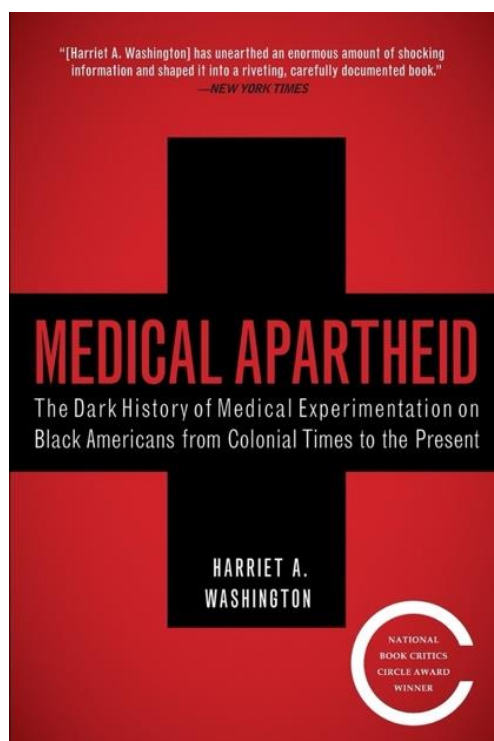
**First Meeting:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023

**Grading Option:** P/NP (1-credit)

**Course Description:** We will read and discuss selected chapters from the award-winning book, *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present* by Harriet Washington while working through prominent case studies of racism and systemic bias in bioethics throughout American history (e.g., the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiments, antebellum medical experimentation on enslaved Black women, radiation experiments on Black Americans). We will explicitly frame our discussions through an anti-racist lens and weigh the human costs of perpetuating systemic bias and injustice in American healthcare in modern times.

This course is open to upper division undergraduate students and graduate students; it can also be audited by grad students, postdocs, faculty, and staff. Students taking the course for credit are required to co-lead discussion for one lecture period.

**To receive the course CRN, or if acquiring a copy of the book would be a financial hardship for you, please email Alexis ([asroberts@ucdavis.edu](mailto:asroberts@ucdavis.edu)).**



“Shocking, sobering, and immensely consequential in its implications, *Medical Apartheid* is a comprehensive history of abuse of medical experimentation on African Americans, who have for centuries served as unwilling and unwitting subjects. The product of years of prodigious research into medical journals and experimental reports long undisturbed, *Medical Apartheid* reveals the hidden underbelly of scientific research and makes possible, for the first time, an understanding of the roots of the African American health deficit.” – *Back Cover Description*