The course provides non-biology (particularly non-science) majors and first-year biology students with a foundation in molecular biology, genetics and genomics as it applies to genetic engineering, and it addresses the social, legal, and ethical issues that arise from emerging new genetic technologies in medicine, agriculture, and law. A major goal of this class is to put genetic engineering into a scientific, historic, and social perspective so that students can make informed and objective decisions about how this technology should be used in the future. This is a highly interactive, team-oriented, problem-based course that teaches students how to think critically about experimental science and the societal issues raised by advances in genetic engineering, genomics, and human reproduction. The course is organized into three parts: (1) an interactive, media-oriented lecture section that includes hands-on "experiments" and demonstrations, (2) films and guest-speakeries that bring real-life societal issues into the classroom, and (3) a separate undergraduate seminar that focuses on Scientific American-level articles and is taught by teaching assistants. The course will be offered in a distance learning format with honors classes on the same topic at UCLA and Tuskegee University. Thus, students will have the opportunity to interact with students and a professor at other campuses.

Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 - 6:00 pm, 5 units, CRN: 71215
Discussion Section: Wednesdays, 6:10 - 8:00 pm, CRN: 75239
Students earn general education credits for Science and Engineering and/or Social Sciences.

For more information, contact Professor John Harada @ jjharada@ucdavis.edu, or visit the following websites.

Course content and videos of lectures
http://openwetware.org/wiki/Harada:Classes

Articles about the UC Davis - UCLA distance learning class -
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/18/education/edlife/18genetics-t.html
http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/the-world-s-a-classroom-thanks-85276

Article rating the UCLA class as one of America=s 10 Hottest Classes