

Lecture 17: Eugenics

1. Introduction

World War I and Fitness
Degeneration and “race suicide”

2. Early Eugenics

Ancient precedents: Plato to Condorcet
Darwin
Herbert Spencer and Social Darwinism
Darwin, on Social Darwinism
Francis Galton, “eugenics,” 1883
Karl Pearson

3. Eugenics in the United States

Charles Davenport, Cold Spring Harbor, 1904
Eugenics Records Office, 1910
The Jukes, eugenics, and social reform
Genetics: Mendel and Weismann
The Jukes in 1915: futility of social reform
Heredity and intelligence
Henry Goddard and *The Kallikaks*
“Race suicide”

4. Implementing Eugenics

Positive eugenics
Negative eugenics
Eugenic rhetoric: a “purifying *conflagration*”
Eugenic education
Opposition to eugenics

5. *Buck v. Bell*

Virginia Compulsory Sterilization Statute
Carrie and Vivian Buck
“Three generations of imbeciles is enough”
The sterilization boom in the 1930s

6. Eugenics and the Holocaust

Eugenics in Europe
Eugenics in Germany
From Eugenics to the Holocaust

7. The Legacy of Eugenics

Further Reading:

Daniel J. Kevles, *In the Name of Eugenics: Genetics and the Uses of Human Heredity*, 1985.

Names and Dates:

Francis Galton (1822-1911), *Hereditary Genius* (1869)

“eugenics” (1883), positive vs. negative

Karl Pearson (1857-1936)

Gregor Mendel (1822-1884)

August Weismann (1834-1914)

Mendelians vs. Biometricians

“genes” (1908)

Charles B. Davenport (1866-1944)

Eugenics Record Office, Cold Spring Harbor (1911)

Richard Dugdale, *The Jukes: A Study in Crime, Pauperism, Disease, and Heredity* (1874)

Arthur Estabrook, *The Jukes in 1915*

Henry Goddard (1866-1957), *The Kallikak family: A Study in the Heredity of Feeble-mindedness* (1912)

“Race Suicide” (1901)

Better Baby Contests

Sterilization and Euthanasia

Buck v. Bell, 1927: Oliver Wendell Holmes

Immigration Restriction Act (1924)