Introduction to Science and Society  
HIST UA 94-001 and IDSEM-UG 1878-001  
Prof. Myles W. Jackson  
NYU-CAS-History and NYU-Gallatin  
GCASL 369  
Spring 2016  
Mondays and Wednesdays: 3:30-4:45 pm

The goal of this course is to provide a background to the plethora of techniques proffered by the humanities and social sciences in studying the history of science, technology, and medicine. This course will include lectures, student presentations, and lively discussions.

Although this course covers a plethora of disciplines and their methodologies, students are encouraged to see how various tools from one field can be fruitfully applied to another. Topics include: Christian Aristotelianism, the rise of experimentation and the Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment Science, Darwin’s theory of evolution and the church, eugenics in 20th-century America, machines and humans during the 19th and 20th centuries, historical explanations of disease, gene patenting, race and genes, and the history of HIV/AIDS.

In short this course, which should be taken early on in the Science-and-Society minor, will not only offer an intellectual map for students to plan and craft their own individual program, it also invites students to think synthetically, organically, and creatively on how various disciplines can be brought together with a view to elucidate the scientific, technological, and medical enterprises.

Goals:

* To understand the historical relationships between socio-cultural context and the natural sciences  
* To appreciate the social, economic, political, and ethical implications of the natural sciences  
* To read critically and carefully primary and secondary literature  
* To develop writing skills relevant to the socio-cultural and political aspects of the natural sciences

Exams may only be missed due to illness (you will need a physician’s note) or personal/family tragedies (accompanied by an official note to that effect). The same is also true of paper deadlines. Otherwise, you will receive a zero (0) for that exam or paper.

Note that cheating will be punished to the fullest extent possible under NYU-CAS guidelines. See [http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html).
Week 1 (1/25):

M: Introduction to Course, Mechanics, and Requirements  
W: Plato and Aristotle. Reading: Lindberg, pp. 46-68 and 111-131,  

Week 2 (2/1):


Week 3 (2/8):


Week 4 (2/15):

**M: No Class President’s Day**  
W: Charles Darwin, Evolution and the Church. Reading:  
http://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111dar.html (excerpts from Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, 1859), W. Coleman, *Biology in the Nineteenth Century*, pp. 57-117 (text on electronic reserve on NYU classes) and  
http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/evolut.htm

Week 5 (2/22):

M: Social Darwinism and Introduction to Eugenics. Reading: Diane Paul,  
*Controlling Human Heredity*, pp. 1-49.  
W: Examination One

Week 6 (2/29):
W: Human Genome Project, I. Reading: Hood and Kevles, eds., *The Code of Codes*, Chapters 1, 3, and 5

**Week 7 (3/7):**

M: Human Genome Project, II. Genetic Essentialism and Genetic Privacy. Reading: ibid., Chapters 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13.

**Spring Break (3/14)**

**Week 8 (3/21):**


**Week 9 (3/28):**

W: Examination Two

**Week 10 (4/4):**

W: History of Epidemics in the U.S. II. Reading: Ibid., chapters 8-10.

**Week 11(4/11):**

W: No Class

**Week 12 (4/18):**


Week 13 (4/25):

M: The Biology of Race, Part II. Reading: Duana Fullwiley, “The Molecularization of Race” (on electronic reserve)
W: HIV/AIDS, I. Reading: Epstein, Impure Science, pp. 45-78 (optional: lecture at NYU-Langone, Division of Biomedical Ethics at 1 pm)

Week 14 (5/2):


Week 14: (5/9)

M: Paper due in class.

Grading:

Two examinations, 30% each = 60%
One Paper, 5 pages in length, 30%
Class Participation in discussions = 10%

Office hours and relevant information:

Myles W. Jackson, Ph.D., Albert Gallatin Research Excellence Professor of the History of Science; Professor of History, Faculty of Arts and Science; Professor of Medical Ethics, NYU-Langone School of Medicine; and Director of Science and Society;

Office Hours: NYU-Gallatin, 1 Washington Place, Room 405, x88488
Monday and Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 pm or by appointment

Required Texts:


