

Syllabus, Interim Session Dec 2009
DePaul University SNL Program Loop
SW 247 Science Technology Society

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Course Description:

The 20th century has experienced the greatest number and most profound changes of any in our history. From the invention of plastic to the identification of genes, science and the practical application through technology has changed the way we think and perceive our environment. This course will be an overview of some major discoveries that occurred in the past 100 years and how these discoveries have effected society for good or sometimes not so good.. We will look at how the work of women and minority scientists has been included/not included into the mainstream.

Competences:

(This course can be taken for only one competence)

S3F

S3A

1 Credits

Text: Stevenson, Leslie and Henry Byerly. 1995 *The Many Faces of Science*. Westview Press. San Francisco **OPTIONAL**
Purchase from ADDALL.COM

Learning Experiences (in class)

- class discussion
- lecture
- research project/presentation
- personal reading

Evidence Submitted:

- **Research project** (to be presented orally) on one scientist and/or one major discovery. Include how this changed/impacted society
- **Turn in written topic Bibliography**
- **Weekly discussion/student participation** on current discoveries/innovations and how they impact the student, at home, at work, in the community at large and globally

Criteria for Assessment: (grading)

- **Instructor assessment** of work submitted, timelines, thoroughness and student understanding of subject matter through oral communication
- **Student assessment** of learning experience and relevance to lifelong experiences
- **Pass/Fail** requests should be made at the beginning of the course in writing

Class Dates
Five evenings, 2 ½ weeks
Dec 1, 3 , 8, 10 and 15

Class Schedule

- Class one: What is science? technology?
What motivates science, technology?
Intellectual curiosity
Awe of science, technology. Trust and belief, is it warranted?
Practitioners, discoveries and impact
- Class two: Who funds science? Technology?
Reputation and influence. Fame
Practitioners, discoveries and impact
- Class three: Women in science.
Politics and science, feminism it's impact on scientific research
Practitioners, discoveries and impact
Pseudoscience. Science and values
- Class four: Student Presentations
- Class five: Student presentations

Suggested information sources:

- Medical journals, Science and Tech journals, Psychology and Education professional journals
- the internet using key words,
- newspapers including local newspapers, the New York Times (Tuesday) science section, the Wall Street Journal, the Christian Science Monitor, the Washington Post or any major international newspaper,
- international news programs on TV or radio (short wave radio is great)
- cable TV stations, like ZDTV, the Learning Channel, Discovery channel, PBS, the History channel, Biography on A&E
- government agencies and publications like NASA, EPA, NIH, Dept. of Agriculture
- Tech, agriculture and pharmaceutical corporations web sites
- Manufacturing and trade organizations and corporations
- Music, entertainment and fashion industry trade publications

Some general science/tech magazines:

- Nature

- Science
- New England Journal of Medicine
- Journal of the American Medical Association
- Scientific American
- Popular Science
- Psychology Today
- Atlantic Monthly
- Utne Reader
- Harper's
- Smithsonian
- E magazine
- Garbage
- Macworld or PC magazines
- Wired

most weekly news magazines have a science or environment section this information is everywhere around you depending on your focus and interests

explore