

# HN300 01: Is the Truth Out There? Religion, Science, and Society

Fall Term, 2000: Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 - 10:50 am, JH 207

Instructor: Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.

Office: Anthropology Program, JH 349A

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Is truth to be found in science, religion, or some combination of both? How do scientific theories, religious beliefs and technological innovations affect the way we perceive our lives? This course is designed to be an inquiry into these questions involving the production and cultural meanings of scientific knowledge and technological change. We will compare the function and rhetoric of scientific "truths" to other modes of truth-production (such as religion) and consider the ways in which the language of science is culturally produced and in turn reproductive of cultural norms in Western society. Our course readings will focus on topics from religion, biology, physics, and information technology and on critical perspectives from anthropology, rhetoric, and gender studies.

## Course Readings

Required Texts:

Feynman, Richard P. 1999. *Meaning of It All: Thoughts of a Citizen Scientist*. Perseus Books. Paperback, ISBN: 0738201669.

Kuhn, Thomas S. 1996. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Paperback, ISBN: 0226458083.

Polkinghorne, John C. 1999. *Belief in God in an Age of Science*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Paperback, ISBN: 0300080034.

Miller, Daniel and Don Slater. 2000. *The Internet: An Ethnographic Approach*. New York: New York University Press. Paperback, ISBN: 1859733840.

Tambiah, Stanley J. 1990. *Magic, Science, Religion, and the Scope of Rationality*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Paperback, ISBN: 0521376319.

Optional Texts:

Hess, David J. 1997. *Science Studies: An Advanced Introduction*. New York: New York University Press. Paperback, ISBN: 0814735649.

In addition to the above books, various articles will be required. One set of these articles will be available for students at the library and another will be available from the instructor.

### Course Requirements

The most important work in this honors course is to be prepared for each seminar meeting; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading.

Each student will have to write five (5) response papers, one page and double-spaced. **Response papers are worth 30%** of the final grade. They are individually ungraded and require only timely submission for full credit. See the handout for more information.

Students will have a choice of writing two (2) short essays (between 5-7 pages) or one (1) longer essay (10-12 pages) that are **worth 50%** of the final grade. The shorter essays will be due on **10 October** and **14 November 2000** in class. The long essay is due in class on **30 November 2000**. Topics for the long essay will be selected by each student, but must be discussed with the instructor prior to **10 October 2000**.

**Participation in classroom discussions will be worth 20%** of the final grade. Active participation requires that each student come to class prepared, having read the assigned material before class.

“Plagiarism is the fraudulent misrepresentation of any part of another person’s work as one’s own. Submitting any writing, including take-home exams, that does not properly acknowledge the quoting or paraphrasing of another person’s words, or that fails to give proper credit for another person’s ideas, opinion, or theory is plagiarism. Any unacknowledged use of sources to which one is indebted including but not limited to are music, video, audio, theatre projects, compositions, and computer software constitutes plagiarism.” – Butler University Student Handbook 1999-2000, pg. 92.

It is the policy and practice of Butler University to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow two weeks notice. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be received on a timely basis. If you have questions about Student Disability Services, you may wish to contact Michele Atterson, JH 136, ext. 9308.

## Class Schedule (subject to modification)

24 August	Seminar Introduction
29 August	<b>Reading:</b> Feynman: biography, p. 131-133, p. 1-28 Traweek article
31 August	<b>Reading:</b> Feynman, p. 29-58 Bourdieu article
5 September	<b>Reading:</b> Feynman, p. 59-122
7 September	<b>Reading:</b> Kuhn, p. 1-34 Cetina article
12 September	<b>Reading:</b> Kuhn, p. 35-51 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
19 September	<b>Reading:</b> Kuhn, p. 52-91
21 September	<b>Reading:</b> Kuhn, p. 92-135
26 September	<b>Reading:</b> Kuhn, p. 136-173 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
28 September	<b>Reading:</b> Kuhn, p. 174-210
3 October	<b>Reading:</b> Porter article Rotman article
5 October	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 1-41
10 October	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 42-83 <b>Assignment:</b> Short Essay Due
17 October	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 84-110
19 October	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 111-139
24 October	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 140-154 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
26 October	<b>Reading:</b> Polkinghorne, p. 1-24
31 October	<b>Reading:</b> Polkinghorne, p. 25-75
2 November	<b>Reading:</b> Polkinghorne, p. 76-124
7 November	<b>Reading:</b> Fox Keller article Haraway article <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
9 November	<b>Reading:</b> Martin article Barad article
14 November	Miller and Slater, p. 1-53 <b>Assignment:</b> Short Essay Due
16 November	<b>No Class:</b> Prof. Lozada attending the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: Have a Good Thanksgiving Break
28 November	Miller and Slater, p. 55-115 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
30 November	<b>Reading:</b> Miller and Slater, p. 117-143 <b>Assignment:</b> Long Essay Due
5 December	<b>Reading:</b> Miller and Slater, p. 145-172
7 December	<b>Reading:</b> Miller and Slater, 173-193