

ANT 261: Science, Policy, and Society  
Fall 2014: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30 - 11:20 am, Chambers 1027

Prof. Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.  
Office: Chambers B12  
Telephone: 704-894-2035

Office Hours: M, W, F 9:30 – 10:30 am  
T, Th 9:00 – 10:00 am or by appointment  
Email: [erlozada@davidson.edu](mailto:erlozada@ davidson.edu)  
Web: <http://lozada.davidson.edu>



How do scientific theories and methodologies, religious beliefs and practices, and technological innovations affect the way we perceive the world around us? This course, an introduction to Science, Technology and Society (STS) studies, is designed to be an inquiry into questions that involve the production and cultural meanings of scientific knowledge and technological change. This course will compare the function and rhetoric of scientific “truths” to other modes of truth-production and consider the ways in which science is culturally produced and in turn reproductive of cultural norms in Western society, including the adoption of Western scientific practices and institutions by non-Western societies and the management of science and technology in social and economic practices. This course is directly pertinent to interdisciplinary

fields such as environmental studies, health sciences and humanities, among others.

The impact of the specificity of social and cultural environments on science will be explored at a number of different levels including theoretical models from STS and other disciplines, ethnographic and historical case studies, and reflections by scientists on their practices of science.

### Course Readings

#### Required Texts:

- Biagioli, Mario ed. 1999. *The Science Studies Reader* New York: Routledge. (ISBN: 0415918685)
- Tambiah, Stanley J 1990. *Magic, Science, Religion, and the Scope of Rationality* New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN: 0521376319)
- Shapin, Steven and Simon Schaffer 2011. *Leviathan and the Air-Pump: Hobbes, Boyle, and the Experimental Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (ISBN: 0691150206)
- Edwards, Paul N. 2010. *A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming*. Cambridge: MIT Press. (ISBN: 0262013924)
- Schurman, Rachel and William Munro 2010. *Fighting for the Future of Food: Activists versus Agribusiness in the Struggle over Biotechnology*. (ISBN: 0816647623)

In addition to the above books, various articles will be required. These articles are available from Moodle, and are to be completed by the date assigned on the course schedule.

## Course Requirements

This course is not an introduction to anthropology, and students are expected to have some background in science, anthropology or social theory and methodology.

### **Class Participation: 15%**

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. I am not a TV; discussions in class are an important part of exploring anthropological topics. Remember, there is no such thing as a dumb question or comment – if you do not understand something that I present in class, do not hesitate to either ask me in class or find me during office hours.

### **5 Response Papers: 10%**

You will write five (5) response papers throughout the term, no more than two pages and double-spaced. They will be graded (√+, √, √-) and require timely submission for full credit. Response papers will serve as a diagnostic for me to help me see how much you understand the reading and the concepts that we will discuss in class.

### **1 Review Essay (take-home): 20%**

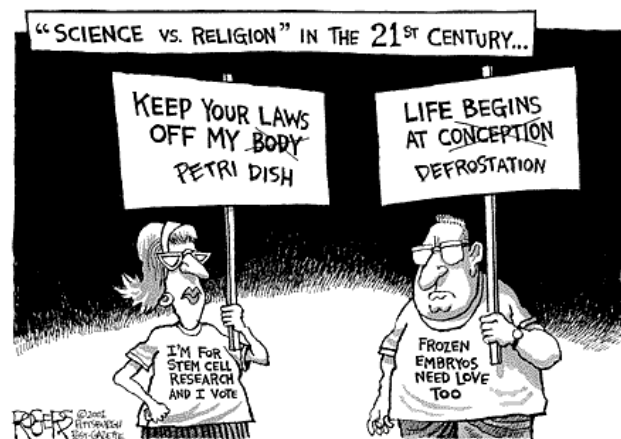
There will also be one short essay (no more than five pages) that will give students the opportunity to explore the theoretical and social implications of the classroom material. For these essays, no outside research is required. The essay will be due prior to class on **22 September 2014**.

### **Final Research Project (proposal and final paper): 55%**

There will also be a final research essay (12-15 pages) based on a topic that students will select. This essay may include outside research, library or fieldwork based. Students will submit a proposal and bibliography (worth 10% of the grade) prior to class on **29 September 2014** and a literature review (worth 15% of the grade) on **27 October 2014**. The final essay, **due 11 December 2014**, is worth 30% of the final grade. I am willing to accept creative/media substitutions for the final research project (including a small group project), but this will need to be petitioned in the proposal/bibliography.

**Submission of Writing Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted to me electronically by email, preferably in MS Word format – but any format will do. If you have any questions about how to submit assignments, please see me individually.

For an explanation of how I grade and my teaching philosophies, please read the material on my website in the “Teaching Philosophy” section.



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While students working with each other outside of class is highly encouraged, all graded, written work must be your own and pledged accordingly. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

Class Schedule (subject to modification)

Monday, 25 August	Introduction
Wednesday, 27 August	<b>Reading:</b> Ch 1, Ch 3, Using Science as Evidence in Public Policy The Precautionary Principle in Environmental Science article (on Moodle)
Friday, 29 August	<b>Reading:</b> Gould article; Barbour article (on Moodle)
Monday, 1 September	<b>Reading:</b> Franklin article (Moodle)
Wednesday, 3 September	<b>Reading:</b> Bourdieu article (Science Studies) <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Friday, 5 September	History of Science <b>Reading:</b> Shapin and Schaffer, Chapters 1 and 2
Monday, 8 September	<b>Reading:</b> Shapin and Schaffer, Chapters 3 and 4
Wednesday, 10 September	<b>Reading:</b> Shapin and Schaffer, Chapters 5 and 6
Friday, 12 September	<b>No Class Meeting</b> <b>Reading:</b> Shapin and Schaffer, Chapters 7 and 8
Monday, 15 September	<b>Reading:</b> Daston article (Science Studies); Latour article (Science Studies ch. 19)
Wednesday, 17 September	<b>Reading:</b> Cetina article (Moodle ); Latour article (ch. 18)
Friday, 19 September	<b>Reading:</b> Porter essay (Science Studies); Rotman essay (Science Studies)
Monday, 22 September	Case Study: The Politics of Global Warming <b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Introduction, Ch. 1 <b>Assignment:</b> First Short Essay Due
Wednesday, 24 September	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 2-3
Friday, 26 September	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 4-6
Monday, 29 September	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 7-8 <b>Assignment:</b> Research Paper Proposal Due
Wednesday, 1 October	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 9-10
Friday, 3 October	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 11-12 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due

Monday, 6 October	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 13-14
Wednesday, 8 October	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch 15-Conclusion
Friday, 10 October	<b>Reading:</b> Kay article (Science Studies) <span style="float: right;">More STS Theory</span>
13-15 October	No Class: Have a good Fall Break!
Friday, 17 October	<b>Reading:</b> Rabinow article (Science Studies) <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Monday, 20 October	<b>Reading:</b> Rouse article (Science Studies)
Wednesday, 22 October	<b>Reading:</b> Turkle article (Science Studies)
Friday, 24 October	<b>Reading:</b> Fox Keller article; Haraway article (Science Studies)
Monday, 27 October	<b>Reading:</b> Traweek article (Science Studies) <b>Assignment:</b> Literature Review Due
Wednesday, 29 October	<b>Reading:</b> Martin article (Science Studies); Barad article (Science Studies)
Friday, 31 October	<b>Reading:</b> Callon article (Science Studies); Silverman article (Moodle) Backstrand article (Moodle)
Monday, 3 November	Case Study: Science, Rationality, and Structures of Thought <b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 1-41
Wednesday, 5 November	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, 42-83
Friday, 7 November	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, 84-139 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Monday, 10 November	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, 140-154
Wednesday, 12 November	<b>Film:</b> Contact (1997)
Friday, 14 November	<b>Film:</b> Contact (1997)
Monday, 17 November	<b>Film:</b> Contact (1997) <b>Reading:</b> Whitehead essay (Moodle); McGrath essay (Moodle)
Wednesday, 19 November	<b>Reading:</b> Selections from Star Trek and Sacred Ground (Moodle)
Friday, 21 November	Case Study: Science, Industry, and Activists <b>Reading:</b> Schurman and Munro, Introduction and Chapter 1
Monday, 24 November	<b>Reading:</b> Schurman and Munro, Chapter 2-3
26-30 November	No Class: Have a good Thanksgiving Break!
Wednesday, 1 December	<b>Reading:</b> Schurman and Munro, Chapter 4-5 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due

Friday, 3 December	<b>Reading:</b> Schurman and Munro, Chapter 4-5 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Monday, 5 December	<b>Reading:</b> Schurman and Munro, Chapter 6, Conclusion Last Day of Class
Wednesday, 11 December	<b>Assignment:</b> Final Papers Due

