

Sci-365 Science and Society Course Syllabus Fall 2011

- Instructor:** Robert Hermann email: Robert.Hermann@cune.edu
Phone: 7447 Office Hours: 10:10 – 11:00 MWR; 2:10 – 4:00 MWR; 8:30 – 9:20 F
Office: Science 204 and by appointment (or just stop by)
- Text:** None, but there will be required readings.
- Course Info:** Credit Hours: 1
Meeting Times: 1:10 - 2:00 pm Thursday in Sc 115
- Description:** Lectures and periodical readings on recent and current science topics of interest to the 'layman'. Science topics chosen for their impact on the individual and on society. Moral and religious implications of ideas of scientific advances are explored.
- Attendance:** You are expected to be in class, and you are responsible for the material covered in each class and any work assigned or collected in each class. You will not pass this class if you have more than three (3) absences of any kind. Please notify me about absences beforehand if possible. Electronics that distract more from learning (iPods, phones, computers used for other than note-taking) will be confiscated. Problems will be addressed individually.
- Grading:** The course is graded Passed-Failed. To pass the course ALL of the following must be completed:
1. Have no more than **three** absences of any kind, excused or unexcused.
 2. Turn in **ten** or more weekly reports of current science magazine readings. (See "Weekly Reports" below.) You are to read and turn in one report each week.
 3. Complete **three** discussion papers on topics of science and society (to be described) with an average grade of at least 70% for the three.
 4. Complete **one** book report on a scientific topic of the student's choice and instructor's approval. (See "Book Report" below.) **Due the last day of classes, December 9, 2011.**
 5. Read the material each week that prepares you for that week's presentation.
 6. No work will be accepted for any reason after the last day of classes, December 9, 2011.

Weekly Report: (Complete at least 10)

Weekly reports are intended to develop a habit of reading some exciting current popular science articles written for the layman. You should schedule *one hour each week* for this purpose. Through your reading you should become acquainted with a variety of magazines in the science field and should cover a variety of topics of current importance. A written summary will help reinforce what you learn in the reading session. *Each report must be from a separate issue of a magazine.* For the magazine readings, you can use the same magazine title **a maximum of two (2)** times. *Keep track of the titles you use.* You may only turn in one report each week unless you get permission from the instructor in advance

Each week, you should choose a magazine from the list and peruse the contents. Pick a **major** article or two and read them. The last few minutes of your hour should be spent writing a report on 8¹/₂ x 11 paper. The report should include:

1. Your name (in the upper right corner of the paper).
2. Name and date of the magazine (from the **last 6 months**).
3. A short list of articles read and perused.
4. Title and abstract of each major article you read. An abstract for this report is a paragraph of your own composition that summarizes the content of the article *and your thoughts on it.* (Length of no more than half a page for an abstract.)

No more than three (3) reports will be accepted from an individual in any week.

NOTE: Readings must be from the actual magazine in the library. Readings from the magazine's web site are not acceptable.

Reports, legibly written -- ink or typewritten -- are to be turned in at the beginning of the class period or before class. Late reports must have the written approval of the instructor to be accepted. Magazines in Link Library acceptable for the reports are:

American Journal of Physics	Discover	New Scientist	Science and Children
American Scientist	Futurist	Nutrition Today	Science News
Astronomy	JAMA	Oceanus	ScienceScope
Audubon	National	Physics Today	Scientific American
Bioscience	Wildlife	Popular Science	Skeptical Inquirer
Chemical & Eng. News	Natural History	Psychology Today	Sky and Telescope
	Nature	Science	

NOTE: Journals in **bold face** must be included in your readings during the semester.

Discussion Papers (Three required, 3-4 pages each)

Write a 3-4 page (typed, single- or 1 ½ - spaced) report on broad topics of science and society (to be described later). Use appropriate sources (put the reference at the end and include references to the information within the text) for your information. Write the sort of clear, well-reasoned and supported paper one would expect of an upper-level course. Each paper will be graded, and you must receive an average of at least 70% combined for the three papers in order to pass the class.

Book Report (one oral/written, 10 minutes with instructor)

This session provides an opportunity for student and instructor to become acquainted and an opportunity for the student to discuss a book that has been read. This should encourage thinking about what has been read and how topics are related to your life view. Hopefully more is gotten out of the book when it is discussed.

Choose a book from the book list (bibliography is on reserve in the university library) and bring it with you to the report session so the instructor can become acquainted with the book. Books not on the list must have prior approval of the instructor in writing. Prepare an 8½ x 11 sheet of paper to leave with the instructor. It contains the following information on no more than one page legibly typewritten or in ink.

1. Your name and date.
2. Author and title of the book.
3. A brief description of the main themes of the book, or a high point or two in the book.
4. Personal reaction to the book.

Course Workload

At Concordia University, Nebraska, credit hours are amassed through student-to-instructor interaction, student-to-student interaction, Blackboard activities, contact with course-specific content, assignments, assigned videos, and other activities. No matter the length of the course meeting time in weeks or the amount of face-to-face instruction in the course, students can expect to devote at least 126 hours for each 3-credit course.

Course Participation

Federal Financial Aid regulations require that students regularly participate in courses in which they are enrolled. All students must log into Blackboard or participate in a face-to-face session weekly in order to avoid being tagged as a non-participant. Students must use the Concordia Blackboard and e-mail messaging systems to contact instructors and advisors. Students who are unable to participate regularly in their course for any reason should contact their instructor and their advisor. Students who intend to withdraw from a course or a program should notify their instructor and advisor.

Academic Integrity

At Concordia University Nebraska, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of your work. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity

(e.g., plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, multiple submissions, cheating on exams, or fabricating information) will result in your being subject to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment or examination, receiving a failing grade for the course, and/or being suspended from the university.

ADA

Students with a documented disability, who need reasonable accommodations, should contact ADA & Academic Support located in Link Library to arrange an appointment to discuss their individual needs. Students are also encouraged to notify their instructors immediately about any disability-related academic needs they may have. To contact the ADA and Academic Guidance Coordinator, Angel Hoppe, please call 402.643.7377 or 800.535.5494 ext. 7377 or email Angel.Hoppe@cune.edu.

Emergency Information

In inclement weather, check your e-mail, Blackboard, and the Concordia website (www.cune.edu) for information. Your instructor may utilize Blackboard to make-up course time, so please check Blackboard if a class is cancelled. In the event of an emergency while you are in a face-to-face class, follow the instructions of your instructor, ensure you are in a safe location, and, after you are in a safe location, check in with your instructor before leaving so that he or she can account for all students. Also, please update emergency contact information in "Banner Self-Service" on the connectCUNE portal (<http://connect.cune.edu>).

Notice: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor in order to accommodate institutional, instructional and/or student needs.