



蘇州大學
Soochow University

PHL 290 Scientific Thought and Social Values

Summer 2023

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 55 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is all about two forms of thinking about the world we all live in meet, namely, science and philosophy. More closely, this course will examine the nature of scientific thought and the relationships between technology and culture, religion, politics, technology and society at large. Students will also learn how to look at the question of whether science can yield a complete explanation of human beings and human nature.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. develop a critical analysis of the mutual relationship between technology and society, exploring the ways in which technology is itself shaped by social and other factors as well as the effects of technology on society;
2. exploring the ways in which technology is itself shaped by social and other factors;
3. exploring the effects of technology on society;
4. develop a critical understanding of, the main approaches to the socio-economic analysis of technology.

PREREQUISITES

None

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM

POINTS



2 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm	25 Points
Final Exam	35 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Kevin C. Elliott, 2017, *A Tapestry of Values. An Introduction to Values in Science*, Oxford University Press.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None.

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Introduction to scientific thought and social values Topic 2: Philosophy of science and its impact on societal values Topic 3: Societal values and scientific inquiry Topic 4: Scientific objectivity vs. subjectivity Assessments: Assignment #1
Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Cultural, religious, and ethical factors influencing scientific research Topic 6: Science, politics, and power Topic 7: Science policy-making and its social consequences Topic 8: The role of scientific expertise in policy debates Assessments: Quiz #1



Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Science and ethics Topic 10: Ethical considerations in scientific experimentation Topic 11: Environmental ethics and the responsibility of scientists Topic 12: Climate change and societal responses Assessments: Assignment #2 Midterm Exam
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Science, technology, and society Topic 14: Surveillance, privacy, and the impact of digital technologies Topic 15: Science and public health crises Topic 16: Global scientific collaboration and its challenges Assessments: Quiz #2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Controversial topics in science and society Topic 18: Gender and race in scientific research Topic 19: Science communication and engaging the public Topic 20: Final Exam Review Assessments: Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.



LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a



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learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.