HST 329: Issues in Modern Science: Religion, Race, and Politics
M-W-F 1:00-1:50pm (DeLoach Hall 101)

Instructor:
Dr. Nathan Crowe
crowen@uncw.edu
Office: Morton Hall rm 222
Office Hours: T/Th 10am-12pm

Description
In today's world, science seems to often hold its own special place separate from the rest of society. To get daily science news you have to follow science-specific journals, or look at the specific science sections of a newspaper or website. When scientific advances hit the front page of the news cycle, it tends to be about how science has advanced to a new frontier, which people claim might have significant ethical or moral consequences. Physicists explore the "God Particle"; biologists investigate life in ways that are labeled "Playing God"; doctors claim that they have a new drug that works specifically on specific ethnic groups. In these instances, it seems like science is encroaching upon, or becoming involved with, issues belonging to areas of religion, race, and politics. However, science is not distinct from our wider culture, nor are the controversies surrounding it a contemporary phenomenon. Science, religion, race, and many of our political arguments have long historical roots and have developed together, each informing and reacting to the other.

In this course we will analyze four significant cases in which science, religion, race, and politics have intermingled within our modern discourse. To keep all of these cases loosely related, we will cover: evolution and creationism; science and racism; embryos and ethics; and biotechnologies. We will focus on the historical underpinnings of these debates and in doing so we will find that many of the issues at the heart of these controversies are not new nor should we see "science" as separated from our wider society – science is as much a product of our social and political world as our ideas of race and religion.

Readings and Course Materials

Required Books: All required texts are available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

- Edward Larson, Summer for the Gods (Basic Books, 2006)

**Further Course Materials:** There will be several weeks in which we will read excerpts from primary sources or other secondary sources. All of these readings can be found on the course website.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to help students:
- frame historical questions related to controversial scientific topics
- demonstrate an understanding of the relevant historical facts and issues at stake in several contemporary discussions
- write clearly and effectively about complex ideas
- communicate ideas orally in an effective and constructive manner

**Course Expectations**

**Assignments and Grading**

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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**Tests**

Tests will require you to articulate specific knowledge about the issues we've covered through identifications, short answers, and matching exercises. An essay portion will test your ability to synthesize, analyze, and argue.

**Papers**

There are four distinct sections in this course. You will be required to write a paper on three of those issues. I will provide the class with prompts for each section. The papers should be 4-6 pages in length and are not required to include sources outside of those that we have discussed in class.

**Quizzes**

The in-class quizzes will vary from short-answer to multiple-choice style. Some will be done individually, some in a group, and others as a class. If you do the reading and pay attention these quizzes will help reinforce the main points of the course and provide many opportunities for you to improve your grade. I will drop the lowest quiz grade from the semester when I calculate your grade.

**Participation**

15% of your grade is determined by your participation in class, which also includes attendance. Your class participation grade will be assessed through a combination of written responses and quality participation in both large and small group discussions. **You are allowed four absences for the semester before you begin to lose participation points.** Quality participation in groups/discussion includes making thoughtful comments, helping the group keep on task, and contributing to good group dynamics. There also will be opportunity for participation during lecture. Note that you can lose
participation points for problematic or disruptive behavior that obstructs discussion in some way. That includes, but is not limited to, behaviors such as abusive or intimidating comments, threatening demeanor, dominating discussion, and distracting behaviors such as playing games on your computer/phone.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:
Knowingly presenting another person's language or ideas as your own constitutes plagiarism. Don't do it. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating in any way you will at the very least be failed for the assignment, and depending on the level of the transgression you could receive an "F" for a final grade and be referred to Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). Plagiarism, the theft of intellectual property, is a serious crime. If you have any questions, talk to me. You can also find additional information at the university's website: 
http://uncw.edu/ulc/writing/avoidplagiarism.html

Attendance Policy
For most of life's activities, there are consequences for not being present. So it is in this class as well. You are allowed 4 absences before you begin losing points. For every absence after 4, you will lose half of your participation grade. If you miss 6 classes you will lose all the points from your participation grade, which is 15% of your overall class grade. If you miss more than 6 classes, I will deduct 10% from your final grade for each additional absence. I do allow for excused absences, but only under a limited number of circumstances such as missing class for religious observances and official university obligations, and you must let me know ahead of time. Please note that I will not excuse an absence because you were sick and supplied a doctor's note unless that illness requires you to miss significant class time. In that case, you should be contacting me to discuss your options (and doing so with all your professors). This means that you should use your allotment of absences wisely.

Missed and Late Work Policy
In-class assignments: There will be no opportunity for you to make up any work that we do in class. In-class work will be used to assess participation and you cannot get participation credit if you are not in class. If you have an excused absence from class, this will not affect your grade.

Out-of-class assignments: Late work will be docked 5% of the grade for every 12 hours that it is late.

Student Roles and Expectations
I expect that you will treat this class as a priority in your life, which means that you should make your best effort to attend every class and to turn in assignments on time. It is also your responsibility to communicate to me any issues you may have concerning disability (see the Office of Disability for more information) and to keep me informed of relevant situations (for instance, missing class for religious observances).

Furthermore, I expect that your demeanor in class towards the instructors and other students will be respectful at all times and that you will uphold the UNCW honor code (www.uncw.edu/odos/honorcode). Other than that, if you come to class with an open and inquisitive mind, I expect that you will gain a lot from this class.

Instructor Roles and Expectations
You can expect me to be respectful, honest, and open-minded, both in class and outside of it. I will also give you critical and timely feedback on all your work and will always make myself available outside of class if you wish to discuss any college or class-related issues.
Proposed Class Schedule:

**Week 1 – Introduction**
- Wednesday, August 20th – Introduction
- Friday, August 22nd – "What is history of science?" *History Today*, 1985 (Blackboard)

**Week 2 – A History of Science?**
- Monday, August 25th – Maienschein and Gooday readings (Blackboard)
- Wednesday, August 27th – Larson Part I
- Friday, August 29th – Larson, Part I

**Week 3 – Science and Religion**
- Monday, September 1st – LABOR DAY: NO CLASS
- Wednesday, September 3rd – Larson, Part II
- Friday, September 5th – Larson, Part II

**Week 4 – Science and Religion**
- Monday, September 8th – Larson, Part III and Afterward
- Wednesday, September 10th – Larson, Part III and Afterward
- Friday, September 12th – Discussion

**Week 5 – Science and Religion/Race and Science**
- Monday, September 15th – Creationism/ID primary sources (Blackboard)
- Wednesday, September 17th – Jackson and Weidman, Chp 1 and 2
- Friday, September 19th – Jackson and Weidman, Chp 1 and 2

**Week 6 – Race and Science**
- Monday, September 22nd – Jackson and Weidman, primary source documents
- Wednesday, September 24th – Jackson and Weidman, Chp 3 and 4
- Friday, September 26th – Jackson and Weidman, Chp 3 and 4

First paper due (evolution controversies): Saturday, September 27th by noon

**Week 7 – Race and Science**
- Monday, September 29th – Jackson and Weidman, primary source documents
- Wednesday, October 1st – Jackson and Weidman, Chp 5 and 6
- Friday, October 3rd – Jackson and Weidman, Chp 5 and 6

**Week 8 – Race and Science**
- Monday, October 6th – Contemporary primary source readings (Blackboard)
- Wednesday, October 8th – Discussion/Wrap-up
- Friday, October 10th – Mid Term

**Week 9 – Embryos and Ethics**
- Monday, October 13th – FALL BREAK: NO CLASS
- Wednesday, October 15th – Maienschein, Intro – chp 2
- Friday, October 17th – Maienschein, Intro – chp 2
Week 10 – Embryos and Ethics
Monday, October 20th – Maienschein, Chp 3 and 4
Wednesday, October 22nd – Guest Speaker (Sherman Lecture)
Thursday, October 23rd – Sherman Lecture Event 7pm
Friday, October 24th – Maienschein, Chp 3 and 4

Second paper due (race & science): Saturday October 25th by noon

Week 11 – Embryos and Ethics
Monday, October 27th – Maienschein, Chps 5-8
Wednesday, October 29th – Maienschein, Chps 5-8
Friday, October 31st – Maienschein, Chps 5-8

Week 12 – Embryos and Ethics/Biotechnology
Monday, November 3rd – Maienschein Discussion
Wednesday, November 5th – Kloppenburg, Introduction
Friday, November 7th – Kloppenburg, Introduction

Week 13 – Biotechnology
Monday, November 10th – Kloppenburg, Chps 3-5
Wednesday, November 12th – Kloppenburg, Chps 3-5
Friday, November 14th – Primary Sources

Third paper due (embryos & ethics): Saturday, November 15th by noon

Week 14 – Biotechnology
Monday, November 17th – Kloppenburg, 6-8
Wednesday, November 19th – Kloppenburg, 6-8
Friday, November 21st – Primary Sources

Week 15 – Biotechnology
Monday, November 24th – Kloppenburg, 9-11
Wednesday, November 26th – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Friday, November 28th – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 16 – Wrap Up
Monday, December 1st – Kloppenburg Wrap up
Wednesday, December 3rd – Class wrap up
Fourth Paper due (biotechnology): December 11th by noon

Final Exam – Monday, December 8th 11:30am-2:30pm

Dates to Remember:
Saturday, September 27th by noon – First paper due (evolution controversies)
Friday, October 10th – Mid Term
Thursday, October 23rd – Sherman Lecture Event 7pm
Saturday October 25th by noon – Second paper due (race/science)
Saturday, November 15th by noon – Third paper due (embryos)
Monday, December 8th 11:30am-2:30pm – Final exam
Thursday, December 11th by noon – Fourth Paper due (biotechnology)