

# HPSC1010 Revealing Science

## Course Syllabus

2013-14 session | Dr Simon J Lock and Dr Brendan Clarke | [simon.lock@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:simon.lock@ucl.ac.uk) / [b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk)

### Course Information

An engaging introduction to history, philosophy, and social studies of science, including key concepts in science and technology studies, public engagement with science, and science policy. Using science at UCL as its canvas, the focus of this module is to encourage students to develop their skills as independent, interdisciplinary and publicly engaged scholars. This course is intended as a foundation and sampler for later courses in science and technology studies.

### Basic course information

Course website:	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/study/hpsc/1010">http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/study/hpsc/1010</a>
Moodle Web site:	[search 'HPSC1010']
Assessment:	Bibliography (20%), Research Essay (40%), Webpage (20%), Fictional reflection (20%)
Timetable:	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc">www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/hpsc</a>
Prerequisites:	no pre-requisites
Required texts:	no required text. Individual readings are set for each lecture.
Course tutor:	Dr Simon J Lock and Dr Brendan Clarke
Teaching assistants	Elizabeth Dobson Jones ( <a href="mailto:elizabeth.jones.13@ucl.ac.uk">elizabeth.jones.13@ucl.ac.uk</a> ); Erman Sozudogru ( <a href="mailto:erman.sozudogru.12@ucl.ac.uk">erman.sozudogru.12@ucl.ac.uk</a> ); Raquel Velho ( <a href="mailto:raquel.velho.12@ucl.ac.uk">raquel.velho.12@ucl.ac.uk</a> )
Contact:	<a href="mailto:simon.lock@ucl.ac.uk">simon.lock@ucl.ac.uk</a> t: 020 7679 3763   <a href="mailto:b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk">b.clarke@ucl.ac.uk</a> t: 020 7679 7132
Web:	<a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/staff/lock">www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/staff/lock</a>   <a href="http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/staff/clarke">www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/staff/clarke</a>
Office location:	22 Gordon Square, Room 1.2 (Simon) Room 2.1 (Brendan)
Office hours:	Simon: Mon 2-4pm   Brendan: Mon 2 – 3pm; Tues 12 – 1pm

## Schedule

UCL Week	Topic	Date	Reading
6	UCL Stories	Lecture: 30 Sept Seminar: 1 Oct	No reading; treasure hunt
7	What is Science and Technology Studies?	Lecture: 7 Oct Seminar: 8 Oct	Erickson 2005: ch 8
8	Revealing Science at UCL	Lecture: 14 Oct Seminar: 15 Oct	No reading
9	Horrible Histories	Lecture: 21 Oct Seminar: 22 Oct	Erickson 2005: ch 4
9	<b>Bibliography due on 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>		
10	Science and Ethics	Lecture: 28 Oct Seminar: 29 Oct	Epstein 1995
11	<b>Reading Week. No classes</b>		
12	Scientific method	Lecture: 11 Nov Seminar: 12 Nov	tba
13	Science policy	Lecture: 18 Nov Seminar: 19 Nov	tba
13	<b>Research Essay due on 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>		
14	Science and Society: Technological Determinism	Lecture: 25 Nov Seminar: 26 Nov	Cowan 1985
15	Science in Public	Lecture: 2 Dec Seminar: 3 Dec	Gregory and Miller 1998: ch 6
16	Fictional and Cultural Representations of Science	Lecture: 9 Dec Seminar: 10 Dec	Erickson 2005: ch 7
	<b>Webpage due on 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
	<b>Reflection due on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014</b>		

## Assessments

### Summary

	Description	Deadline	Word limit
<b>Bibliography</b>	annotated bibliography on your chosen aspect of science at UCL	11.59pm, Fri 25th October 2013	1200
<b>Essay</b>	scholarly essay based on your annotated bibliography	11.59pm, Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2013	2400

<b>Webpage</b>	publicly accessible webpages based on essay	11.59pm, Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2013	1200
<b>Fictional reflection</b>	fictional reflective account on an aspect of the future of science	11.59pm, Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	1200

## Assignments

### Assignment 1: annotated bibliography

Due: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Term 1

Weighting: 20%

Assignment: construct an annotated bibliography on your chosen aspect of science at UCL of approximately 1200 words.

Notes: this project should be approached with an eye on projects 2 and 3

### Assignment 2: essay

Due: 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013, Term 1

Weighting: 40%

Assignment: write a scholarly essay based on your annotated bibliography of no more than 2400 words. Your essay should use the Harvard referencing system and contain a bibliography at the end.

### Assignment 3: web-page

Due: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013, Term 1

Weighting: 20%

Assignment: using projects 1 and 2, produce a publically accessible web-page containing suitable text of no more than 1200 words, images and links. In this assignment, you should consider the question "how does this reveal an aspect of science at UCL?" This assignment must show a substantial reworking and development of the material discussed in Assignment 2, with a view to making the research publicly accessible, engaging and networked.

### Assignment 4: fictional reflection

Due: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014, Term 2

Weighting: 20%

As discussed in class, science fiction is most often used as a way to critically reflect on the social, political and ethical aspects of science and technology.

Write a fictional account of your area of science, it could be set in the present day, or set 50-100 years into the future. It does not have to be set in an exact version of our universe, what is important is that you use the piece of fiction to pick up on and reflect the wider social context for your area of science. This piece should be no more than 1200 words.

Essays must be submitted via Moodle

In order to be deemed 'complete' on this module students must attempt all pieces of assessment

### **Criteria for assessment**

The departmental marking guidelines for individual items of assessment can be found in the STS Student Handbook.

### **Aims & objectives**

Through investigating how science *really* works, historically, philosophically, and sociologically, this module aims to:

1. Enrol students in the intellectual community at UCL
2. Develop investigative research, engagement and presentation skills
3. Introduce foundational concepts in HPS and STS, sufficient to prepare for next-level studies in these fields

Intended learning outcomes for this module operate at several levels. By the end of the module, students should be able to:

1. describe some key developments in modern science and technology at UCL
2. critically discuss foundational concepts in HPS and STS and relate them to examples of science at UCL
3. use on-line tools to produce materials suitable for public engagement
4. develop an appreciation of the role of collaboration in research
5. demonstrate level-appropriate research, filtering, and organising skills
6. demonstrate level-appropriate critical reading and writing skills

### **Reading list**

Readings are supplied via Moodle. They will be updated during the term: students are expected to check for updates frequently.

### **Course expectations**

You are expected to attend the lecture and one seminar each week. There may also be "homework" set between the lecture and seminar or in between weeks which you are expected to complete in your own time.

### **Important policy information**

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Details of college and departmental policies relating to modules and assessments can be found in the STS Student Handbook [www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/handbook)

All students taking modules in the STS department are expected to read these policies.