HPSC Module Catalogue
(Undergraduate)

Overview
This catalogue describes HPSC modules offered by UCL Science and Technology Studies (STS) for the 2017-18 session. Detailed information, including sample syllabi, can be found on the department website: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information.

The information in this catalogue is correct at the date of publication (see headers) but may alter. Please check the latest edition of the module catalogue and the on-line timetable prior to formally registering on modules.

STS modules use the prefix “HPSC”. HPSC module codes are given a 4-number code.
- HPSC1000-level are introductory
- HPSC2000-level are intermediate
- HPSC3000-level are advanced

HPSCGA-level modules are reserved for postgraduate taught students.

Timetable information
We use the UCL online timetable, www.ucl.ac.uk/timetable. The online timetable provides information about module times and locations. Students should continue to check class locations regularly using the online timetable as rooms are subject to change without prior notice.

Before formally registering please check for timetable clashes between modules. Clashes are not an acceptable excuse for missing classes; it is the student’s responsibility to check carefully that they can attend all sessions.

The online timetable for the 2017-18 academic year will be published in August 2017.

Information for STS Students
Please use this handbook in conjunction with the local rules document, which has also been sent to you.

You can find more detailed information about individual modules in the STS Syllabus library, which can be found on the department website: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information.

You must choose a total of 4 course units in years 2 and 3. The dissertation module is 1 CU but all other STS modules are 0.5CU.
If you want to take a module that is taught in another Department at UCL the first place to look for information is the teaching department’s website. Places on external modules are not guaranteed and are subject to the teaching department’s approval, therefore it is important that you check the following before registering:

- Whether the module is open to external students
- Whether there are any pre-requisites
- Whether there are caps on places
- Whether there are any specific sign up instructions in addition to registering on Portico e.g. pre-registration or signing up in person.

STS students must discuss their selections with their personal tutor. Module selections must be approved by personal tutors before they will be confirmed in Portico. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they satisfy their degree requirements. These can be found on the Moodle parent page here: https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=28049

Module tutors may be contacted directly: see www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/directory.

**Registering for HPSC modules If From Another Department**

Students outside STS are welcome to register on most HPSC modules. This catalogue indicates where modules are not open to all UCL students. In some cases, pre-requisites apply and queries regarding these should be directed to the module tutor. Otherwise, registration for students from other departments is on a first-come, first-served basis by date selected in Portico.
# HPSC modules at a glance

Click on the course code to jump to course information.

## Level 1 modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HPSC</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term 1 (Autumn)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001/1001A</td>
<td>History of Science: Antiquity to Enlightenment</td>
<td>Prof Andrew Gregory</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1003/1003A</td>
<td>Philosophy of Science 1</td>
<td>Dr Emma Tobin</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1008/1008A</td>
<td>Science Communication and Public Engagement</td>
<td>Dr Simon Lock</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010</td>
<td>Revealing Science</td>
<td>Dr Carina Fearnley</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term 2 (Spring)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1004</td>
<td>Science Policy</td>
<td>Dr Jack Stilgoe</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1007</td>
<td>Investigating Science and Society</td>
<td>Dr Tiago Mata</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1011</td>
<td>History of Modern Science</td>
<td>Prof Jon Agar</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1012</td>
<td>Investigating History and Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>Dr Simon Werrett</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Module information and syllabi are available at: [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules)
## Level 2 modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HPSC</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1 (Autumn)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Policy Issues in the Life Sciences</td>
<td>Prof Brian Balmer</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002/2002A</td>
<td>Science in Popular Culture</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Philosophy of Science 2</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/2012A</td>
<td>Science and Religion</td>
<td>Dr William MacLehose</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028/2028A</td>
<td>Thinking about Technology</td>
<td>Prof Jon Agar</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 2 (Spring)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Science and Ethics</td>
<td>Dr Phyllis Illari</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Evolution in Science and Culture</td>
<td>Prof Joe Cain</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Sociology of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Prof Brian Balmer</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>Special Topics in Science and Society: Science in Government</td>
<td>Dr Melanie Smallman</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>Engaging the Public with Science</td>
<td>Dr Carina Fearnley</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>Medicine and Society</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terms 1 and 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Human Sciences in Society *Human Sciences only</td>
<td>Dr Simon Lock</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Module information and syllabi are available at: [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules)
## Level 3 modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HPSC</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term 1 (Autumn)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3009</td>
<td>Science and the Publishing Industry</td>
<td>Prof Joe Cain</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3024</td>
<td>Research-led Science and Technology Studies: History of Social Sciences</td>
<td>Dr Tiago Mata</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3028</td>
<td>Philosophy of Medicine</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3029/3029A</td>
<td>History of Medicine</td>
<td>Dr William MacLehose</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3036</td>
<td>Governing Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>Dr Jack Stilgoe</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3040</td>
<td>Science, Politics and the State in Russia and the Soviet Union</td>
<td>Dr Simon Werrett</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3045</td>
<td>Philosophy of Information</td>
<td>Dr Phyllis Illari</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term 2 (Spring)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3003</td>
<td>Science Journalism</td>
<td>Dr Jean-Baptiste Gouyon</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3015</td>
<td>History of Astronomy and Cosmology</td>
<td>Prof Andrew Gregory</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3020/3020A</td>
<td>Philosophy of Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Dr Emma Tobin</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3032</td>
<td>Investigating Contemporary Science</td>
<td>Dr Melanie Smallman</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3046</td>
<td>Science and Film Production</td>
<td>Ms Bex Coates</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3048</td>
<td>Science in the Ancient World</td>
<td>Prof Andrew Gregory</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3049</td>
<td>Sleep and Dreaming</td>
<td>Dr Bill MacLehose</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Terms 1 and 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3004</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>STS students only</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3026</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>STS iBSc students only</td>
<td>ALL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017-18 Term 1

Level 1 introductory modules

HPSC1001/1001A History of Science: Antiquity to Enlightenment

Surveys the origins and development of science from the ancient Greeks to 1800. Main themes are the origins of science in the ancient world, the nature of the scientific revolution and the spread of science during the Enlightenment. Attend all lectures plus one tutorial per week.

PLEASE NOTE: Affiliate students who will not be at UCL in term 3 must register for HPSC1001A version.

Tutor: Dr Andrew Gregory

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend two one-hour lectures and one one-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: 3 hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%

External Examiner: Dr Rebekah Higgitt - University of Kent

HPSC1003/1003A Philosophy of Science 1

This is an introductory module in the philosophy of science. The course is divided into two parts: (1) the epistemology of science and (2) the metaphysics of science. The first part of the course will focus on several central problems regarding the nature of scientific knowledge: how do scientists know if current scientific theories are true? Is science progressive? How do scientists test their theories and how are theories confirmed? Can science and pseudoscience be distinguished? How are sciences distinguished from one another? In the second part of the course we will look at some of the metaphysical problems that face science. Do our theories refer to real entities? Are Laws of Nature Universal? How do we isolate the "cause" when we are faced with an effect? (Lewis/Salmon) What is a scientific Theory and what is a good scientific explanation? Philosophy of Science 1 will provide you with the background knowledge that you will need for other Philosophy courses that you will take in later years. You do not need prior knowledge of philosophy or science to do this course.

PLEASE NOTE: Affiliate students who will not be at UCL in term 3 must register for HPSC1003A version.

Tutor: Dr Emma Tobin

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend 2 x 1-hour lectures and 1 x 1-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: Critical Review – formative assessment (750 words), 3-hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%

External Examiner: TBC
HPSC1008/1008A Science Communication and Public Engagement

This interdisciplinary course introduces the public dimensions of science and technology. It explores the relationship between the professional world of science and the social, cultural and personal spaces in which science contributes to the shaping of society. It also develops students' critical analysis skills with respect to the communication of science in different public contexts including the news media, museums, fiction and online.

PLEASE NOTE: Affiliate students who will not be at UCL in term 3 must register for HPSC1008A version.

Tutor: Dr Simon Lock
Teaching sessions: Term 2. Attend 2 x 1 hour lectures plus one tutorial per week
Assessment: 3 hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%
External Examiner: Dr Declan Fahy - University Of Dublin

HPSC1010 Revealing Science

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 contemporary scientific issues as its canvas, the focus of this module is to encourage students to develop their skills as interdisciplinary and publicly engaged scholars, working both in groups and individually. This course is intended as a foundation and sampler for later courses in science and technology studies.

Tutor: Dr Carina Fearnley
Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend one lecture and one seminar per week.
Assessment: Individual annotated bibliography (500 words) - 30%, individual essay (2500 words) - 40%, group piece (1500 words) - 30%.
External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh.

Level 2 intermediate modules

HPSC2001 Policy Issues in the Life Sciences

Provides a critical overview of policy issues arising from developments in the biological sciences. The module covers a variety of issues, including: medical research policy, biotechnology and public policy, debates about the social acceptability of recombinant DNA research, biology and its publics, controlling biological weapons research and animal experimentation. Attend all lectures and one seminar per week.

Tutor: Dr Brian Balmer
Teaching sessions: Term 1: Students attend 1 x 1 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour seminar per week.
Assessment: Book review (1500 words) - 40%, essay (3000 words) - 60%
External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh
**HPSC2002/2002A Science in Popular Culture**

An introduction to media studies for those interested in relations between science and the media. What science gets covered in print, on TV and online? How and why is that material selected? How can we investigate the effects of media coverage on public knowledge of or attitudes towards science? The module gives a short survey of relevant empirical and theoretical work in media studies, and public engagement with science.

PLEASE NOTE: Affiliate students who will not be at UCL in term 3 must register for HPSC2002A version.

Tutor: TBC

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend 1 x 2-hour seminar per week

Assessment: 3-hour exam - 50% and Content/Media Analysis Project (2500 words) - 50%

External Examiner: Dr Declan Fahy - University Of Dublin

**HPSC2003 Philosophy of Science 2**

Intensive exploration of some central, on-going debates in philosophy of science such as scientific realism and antirealism; the nature of scientific explanation; and the status of laws of nature. No pre-requisite philosophy of science knowledge required. However, if students have not completed HPSC1003 previously, they must secure tutor's permission.

Tutor: TBC

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend 2 x 1 hour seminar per week.

Assessment: 5 minute video - 10%, Essay (2500 words) - 50%, 2-hour Exam - 40%

External Examiner: TBC

**HPSC2012/2012A Science and Religion**

Examines the relations between science, religion and progress. Topics will include the relation between science and religion in the ancient world, in Islam and in China, the role of Christianity in the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century and some issues in the relation of religion and science today.

PLEASE NOTE: Affiliate students who will not be at UCL in term 3 must register for HPSC2012A version.

Tutor: Prof Andrew Gregory

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend 1 x 2-hour seminar per week.

Assessment: 3-hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%.

External Examiner: Dr Rebekah Higgitt - University of Kent

**HPSC2028/2028A Thinking about Technology**

An introduction to ways of thinking about technology, from historical, sociological and philosophical perspectives.
PLEASE NOTE: Affiliate students who will not be at UCL in term 3 must register for HPSC2028 version.

Tutor: Prof Jon Agar

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend 1 x 2-hour session per week comprising a one hour lecture and one hour seminar discussion.

Assessment: 3-hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%

External Examiner: Dr Rebekah Higgitt - University of Kent

**Level 3 advanced modules**

**HPSC3009 Science and the Publishing Industry**

This module investigates the publishing industry with a focus on science publishing. It aims to cover peer-review journals, popular science publishing, book publishing, textbooks, and related consumer goods. Who are the major publishers in this sector? What are the historical and latest trends in the industry? How does it work, both from the perspective of scientist and publisher? What careers are available in science publishing? What are the economics? In recent years, major changes in the industry have been nothing short of revolutionary: open access, print-on-demand, automated translations, tablet reading, and more. The class will involve practical projects and opportunities to meet professionals in the industry. It also will integrate key STS themes to the subject.

Tutor: Professor Joe Cain

Teaching sessions: Term 1. TBC

Assessment: Essay (3000 words) – 60%, Essay (1500 words) – 20% and five minute presentation – 20%.

External Examiner: TBC

**HPSC3024 Research-led Science and Technology Studies: History of Social Sciences**

This module is an historical examination of the social sciences in the long twentieth century. Although we know much about the history of individual disciplines - psychology, economics, sociology, political science...-, we know comparatively little about how the sciences of society have cooperated and competed in the public and political spheres. The module shows that the social sciences have redrafted the architectures of the state, of organizations, and of mass culture. Of the episodes we will examine two stand out. During the first half of the twentieth century the phrase "social control" brought into conversation sociologists, psychologists, economists and political scientists, and set the terms for the development of the modern national state. Debates about how to conceptualize and intervene on "inequality" have flared and faded throughout the twentieth century. On this subject competition between the disciplines has prevailed over cooperation. These different conceptions of inequality and social justice are imprinted in popular understandings of Left and Right and in their programs of social change.

Tutor: Dr Tiego Mata

Teaching sessions: Term 1. TBC

Assessment: Presentation (15 minutes) – 20% and Essay (3500 words) – 80%

External Examiner: TBC

*Module information and syllabi are available at:* [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules)
HPSC3028 Philosophy of Medicine

This module provides students with an overview of the field of philosophy of medicine. Based on case-studies drawn from contemporary medical practice, the module will engage with six conceptual issues of major importance to medicine. In brief, these are the question of discovery (of diseases and treatments), with causation, with modelling, with complexity, with classification, and with evidence-based medicine.

Tutor: TBC

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend 2 x 1 hour sessions per week.

Assessment: Essay (4000 words) - 80%, Write up of Class Presentation (1000 words) - 20%

External Examiner: TBC

HPSC3029/3029A History of Medicine

This course addresses the changes and developments in Western medicine from the Ancient Greek world to 1700. The course will discuss the varieties of theory and practice of medicine, the understandings of the body and illness, and the historical contexts in which medicine can be understood in the pre-modern world, including classical Greek and Roman society, medieval Islamic and Western cultures, and Renaissance and early modern periods.

PLEASE NOTE: Affiliate students who will not be at UCL in term 3 must register for HPSC3029A version.

Tutor: Dr William MacLehose

Teaching sessions: Term 1. 2 x 1 hour lectures per week.

Assessment: Essay (3000 words) - 60%, 2-hour Exam - 40%

External Examiner: Dr Rebekah Higgitt – University of Kent.

HPSC3036 Governing Emerging Technologies

This course goes inside technology to discuss its political and ethical dimensions. Technologies shape our future in powerful and largely unaccountable ways. Are they inevitable, or can we control the technologies that we get, anticipate their implications, prevent hazards and share their benefits? Why do we have iPads and space shuttles but we don’t all drive electric cars and have clean drinking water in the developing world? Were the Fukushima nuclear meltdown and the financial crisis just accidents? What could regulators have done to prevent them? As science introduces new risks and ethical dilemmas, what should governments do to control research, publication, patenting and innovation? The course will teach students to think and write clearly and critically about technology. It will be assessed through an essay and a series of short blog-posts.

Tutor: Dr Jack Stilgoe

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend one 1 hour lecture and one 1 hour seminar per week.

Assessment: Coursework (2500 words) - 50%, Essay (3000 words) - 50%

External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh

Module information and syllabi are available at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules
HPSC3040 Science, Politics and the State in Russia and the Soviet Union

How are science and politics related? What role does science play in governance, and how is science itself best governed? Is scientific knowledge apolitical, and if it is politically-informed, what consequences does this have? This module explores the interactions of science, politics, and the state through a study of science in Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union. From the reign of Peter the Great (1696-1725) to the time of Perestroika in the 1980s, Russian science always operated close to the state. Using cases from Russian and Soviet history, we will explore a variety of approaches for understanding relations of science, politics, and the state. Some comparative studies will show that science and politics are equally integrated in western liberal democracies.

Tutor: Dr Simon Werrett
Teaching sessions: Term 1. TBC
Assessment: Review Essay (1000 words) – 20% and Essay (3500 words) – 80%
External Examiner: TBC

HPSC3045 Philosophy of Information

Information is now a vitally important scientific concept, while changes in information and communication technologies have rapidly altered our personal and working lives. This course examines these changes. It looks at philosophical approaches to information, and the implications of the ‘information revolution’ for such issues as society, personal identity, and scientific knowledge.

Tutor: Dr Phyllis Illari
Teaching Sessions: Term 1, students attend 1 x 2-hour seminar per week.
Assessment: Essay (4000 words) - 100%
External Examiners: TBC

2017-18 Term 2

Level 1 introductory modules

HPSC1004 Science Policy

Introduction to social and political thinking about the role of science and technology in society and the relationship between science and the state. Topics normally include: the role of the state in the promotion, regulation and shaping of science and technology, the idea of scientific autonomy, the moral responsibility of the scientist and the commercialization of science. The course will also focus on focus on current case studies; previous years topics have been geoengineering and biometric technologies. Attend one lecture plus one tutorial per week.

Module information and syllabi are available at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules
Tutor: Dr Jack Stilgoe
Teaching sessions: Term 2. Students attend 1 x 1 hour lectures and 1 x 1 hour tutorial per week.
Assessment: 3-hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%
External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh

HPSC1007 Investigating Science and Society

This module provides an introduction to the academic skills and research methods that underpin all elements of science and technology studies. Content includes basic research and scholarly writing techniques (including identifying appropriate sources, avoiding plagiarism, and writing a convincing argument), as well as an introduction to both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. In addition to becoming familiar with the underpinning theory and research context, students will also have the opportunity to apply data collection methods practically, for example designing questionnaires and/or conducting interviews relating to a topic of their choice.

Tutor: Dr Tiago Mata
Teaching sessions: Term 1. 1x 2 hour workshop session every week.
Assessment: 2 x 2500 word coursework - 50% each
External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh

HPSC1011 History of Modern Science

This module provides an overview of the development of the sciences from 1850 to the present, with particular emphasis on the twentieth century. The development of science will be considered in its social, political and cultural contexts. Topics include science in different national contexts, science and war, the development of key new disciplines (such as quantum physics, relativity, genetics, particle physics) as well as the development of older ones. Emphasis will be on the physical and life sciences, with some comparative consideration of the social sciences.

Tutor: Prof Jon Agar
Teaching sessions: Term 2. Students attend 2 x 1 hour lectures and 1 x 1 hour tutorial per week.
Assessment: 3-hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%
External Examiner: Dr Rebekah Higgitt - University of Kent

HPSC1012 Investigating History and Philosophy of Science

The evidence base for historical research comes in the form of original texts, manuscripts, and artefacts. Knowing how to collate, interpret, and weigh these materials is key to research. They don’t speak for themselves. They often conflict. Sometimes they omit more than they provide. This module investigates source material in detail as part of skills training for research in history and philosophy of science. We scrutinise sources of all kinds. We explore filtering processes (such as preservation and translation). We consider how to make the most of source material and how to assess sources for strengths and weaknesses.

Tutor: Dr Simon Werrett
Teaching sessions: Term 2. 1 x 2-hour seminar per week.

Module information and syllabi are available at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules
Assessment: Research Article/Archival Source (2500 words) - 50%, Essay on Visuals Sources (2500 words) - 50%
External Examiner: Dr Rebekah Higgitt - University of Kent

**Level 2 intermediate modules**

**HPSC2006 Science and Ethics**

An exploration of ethical challenges arising in recent scientific activity. Some challenges will focus on the results of research. Others will concern the process of research itself and science’s efforts at self-regulation. This is a practical, issues-based course. Emphasis also will be on current events and fundamental principles. No prerequisites.
Tutor: Dr Phyllis Illari
Teaching sessions: Term 2. Students attend 1 x 1 hour lecture & 1 x 1 hour seminar per week.
Assessment: Essay plan (1500 words) - 20%, Research Project (2500 words) - 80%
External Examiner: TBC

**HPSC2013 Evolution in Science and Culture**

Evolution is an idea at the heart of modern society. Everything evolves. This module explores the history of evolution as an idea in science and culture, covering topics from the eighteenth century to the present. Yes, it’s about science: Darwin and Darwinism are key. But there is so much more. We explore episodes as diverse as (a) dinosaurs and the origin of life, (b) social Darwinism and corporate capitalism, (c) eugenics and militarism, (d) the clash in religion between fundamentalism and modernity, and (e) changing views of what it means to be human. We also explore the idea of hero worship and commemoration: for example, why is Darwin buried in Westminster Abbey?
Tutor: Professor Joe Cain
Teaching sessions: Term 2. Students attend 2 x 1 hour lectures per week.
Assessment: 3-hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%.
External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh

**HPSC2023 Sociology of Science and Technology**

Examines the complex relationship between science and society. It also takes a sociological look at the process by which knowledge is constructed both through historical and contemporary studies. The module also introduces students to the main currents of thought which have been influential in sociology of science.
Tutor: Professor Brian Balmer
Teaching sessions: Term 2. Students attend 1 x 2-hour session per week comprising a one hour lecture and one hour seminar discussion.
Assessment: 3-hour exam - 50% and essay (2500 words) - 50%
External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh

**HPSC2025 Special Topics in Science and Society: Science in Government**

Detailed investigation of episodes, themes or problems in science and technology studies.

Tutor: Dr Melanie Smallman

Teaching sessions: Term 2. TBC

Assessment: Coursework 1 (1200 words) – 20%, coursework 2 (4200 words) – 70% and coursework 3 – 10%

External Examiner: TBC

**HPSC2027 Engaging Public with Science**

This module focuses on the many different ways in which publics engage with science in face-to-face contexts. Teaching will particularly focus on how scientists can most effectively engage members of the public through direct interactions such as science festivals and museums, and on how specific public groups, such as patient and citizen groups get involved, and engage with, scientific and medical research. Alongside gaining a practical understanding of how to organize such activities, students will also critically reflect on the theory and context that underpins such activities such as models of publics and audiences, rationales for engagement in different contexts and the wider policy contexts and historical trends.

Tutor: Dr Carina Fearnley

Teaching sessions: Term 2. Students attend 1 x 2-hour seminar per week.

Assessment: Essay (2,500 words) - 50%, Group Project (2,500 word group word report) - 50%

External Examiner: Dr Declan Fahy - University Of Dublin

**HPSC2029 Medicine and Society**

An engaging introduction to history, philosophy, and social studies of the medical sciences, including key concepts in science and technology studies, public engagement with science, and science policy. Using case-studies drawn from contemporary medicine, focus of this module is to encourage students to develop their skills as independent, interdisciplinary and publicly engaged scholars.

Tutor: TBC

Teaching sessions: Term 2. Students attend 1 x 2 hour session per week.

Assessment: Group coursework (1500 words) – 30%, individual coursework (2500 words) – 40% and group coursework (1500 words) – 30%.

External Examiner: TBC

**Level 3 advanced modules**

Module information and syllabi are available at: [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/module-information/ug-modules)
**HPSC3003 Science Journalism**

A practical course in communicating science based around three key tasks: (1) writing science news and feature articles suitable for New Scientist or the science pages of the ‘quality’ press; (2) carrying out a radio interview, such as might be broadcast on Radio 4’s Science Now; (3) reporting on a piece of novel science to a committee of MPs who need to be aware both of the science content of the work and potential policy issues. Issues in the public understanding of science are discussed from this practical standpoint of communication. This module is time intensive and requires substantial group work.

Tutor: Dr Jean-Baptiste Gouyon

Teaching sessions: Term 2. 1 x 1 hour lecture, 1 x 2 hour practical session per week

Assessment: News Article (300-500 words) - 10%, Feature Article (1500 words) - 50%, Group Work - 40%

External Examiner: Dr Declan Fahy - University Of Dublin

**HPSC3015 History of Astronomy and Cosmology**

Charts mankind’s changing conception of the universe from the ancient world to the current day. Issues examined will include the origins and development of astronomy, theories of the origin of the universe and of the nature of the universe, ideas of mankind’s place within the universe.

Tutor: Professor Andrew Gregory

Teaching sessions: Term 2. Students attend 1 x 2 hour session per week.

Assessment: 2-hour exam – 50%, essay (2500 words) - 50%

External Examiner: Dr Rebekah Higgitt - University of Kent

**HPSC3020/3020A Philosophy of Natural Sciences**

This course explores topics in the philosophy of the natural sciences. In the philosophy of physics, we will address how quantum mechanics has changed our view of physical reality; and how particle physics has had an impact on philosophical debates about realism and antirealism in science, such as recent literature on structural realism. We will interrogate the philosophical literature on mechanisms and causality by considering astrophysical mechanisms. In the philosophy of chemistry, we will assess the periodic table as a system of classification and particular philosophical problems presented by molecular structure and shape and biomolecular visualisation. We will also discuss problems common to both physics and chemistry such as problems of data, simulation and modelling.

PLEASE NOTE: Affiliate students who will not be at UCL in term 3 must register for HPSC3020A version.

Tutor: Dr Emma Tobin

Teaching sessions: Term 1. Students attend 2 x 1 hour sessions per week.

Assessment: 2-hour exam – 40% and essay (3000 words) – 60%

External Examiner: TBC
**HPSC3032 Investigating Contemporary Science**

This course asks students to use – and develop further - these skills to investigate deeply, assess and present their findings on a chosen issue in the contemporary politics of science. As a third year module, this course has been designed to make most use of acquired skills and knowledge in a way that moves students towards the world of work. In particular, the kinds of capacities demonstrable in a successful completion course are similar to those needed by an investigative reporter or a researcher for a think tank. Through encouraging critical engagement with the political world, this course contributes to UCL STS’s Global Citizenship programme.

Tutor: Dr Melanie Smallman

Teaching sessions: Term 2. 1 x 2 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour seminar per week.

Assessment: Report – News Article (2400 words) – 40% and Report (3000 words) – 60%

External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh

**HPSC3046 Science and Film Production**

This module combines critical theory of the representation of science in cinema and television with practical production that will enable students to gain skills in scriptwriting, production (filming, lighting, sound recording, interview technique, presentation, narrative, documentary and docudrama genres) and post-production (paper, film and sound editing). The module establishes a social, cultural and intellectual context for production, and offers a strong critical foundation for the effective realization of production work. Teaching enables students to engage collectively with narrative theory in a critical and analytical forum. Students will make productions that will engage with real audiences on the web and other media platforms.

Tutor: Ms Bex Coates

Teaching sessions: Term 2, Students attend 1 x 2-hour seminar per week

Assessment: 5-6 minute Group Film - 50%, Essay (2000 words) - 50%

External Examiner: Dr Declan Fahy - University Of Dublin

**HPSC3048 Science in the Ancient World**

This course examines the activities of the ancients in attempting to understand, predict and control the world around them. The main focus is the Greek ‘investigation concerning nature’ and its philosophical, religious and social context. We look at the study of the heavens, including theories of how the world came into being, medicine, mathematics and technology. We also look at how the Greeks thought of disciplines such as astrology and alchemy and how their activities related to magic. While the main focus is the Greeks, we also look at the Babylonian, Egyptian and Roman cultures, their medicine, technology and how they conceived of the world around them.

Tutor: Professor Andrew Gregory

Teaching sessions: Term 2. TBC

Assessment: Essay (3500 words) – 50% and one three-hour unseen exam – 50%.

External Examiner: TBC
HPSC3049 Sleep and Dreaming

This course is designed to explore the different ways sleeping and dreaming have been understood in the past, both distant and recent. We study the various understandings and experiences of sleep from ancient Mesopotamian dream interpretations to the modern world with its fascination with insomnia, sleep disorders and the neuroscience of sleep. We discuss historical understandings of the physiology of sleep, the interpretations of dreams, the material culture of resting, the drugs that produce artificial sleep, and the ways sleeping and dreaming have been used in art, literature and film.

Tutor: Dr Bill MacLehose

Teaching Sessions: Term 2, students attend 2 x 1 hour sessions per week.

Assessment: 2-hour Exam - 40%, Essay (3000 words) - 60%

External Examiner: Dr Rebekah Higgitt - University of Kent
2017-18 Terms 1 and 2

**Level 2 intermediate modules**

**HPSC2008 Human Sciences in Society**
This module is open only to students on the Human Sciences degree programmes.
Tutor: Dr Simon Lock
Teaching sessions: Terms 1 and 2. 1 x 1 hour seminar per week.
Assessment: Coursework (100%); no exam; to be 'complete', students must submit all coursework and attend at least 70% of sessions, including the compulsory sessions.
External Examiner: Dr Jane Calvert – University of Edinburgh

**Level 3 advanced modules**

**HPSC3004 Dissertation**
This is a full-year, one course unit research module for third-year students. Students undertake a research project of their own design in the field of science and technology studies. An appropriate supervisor is assigned by the module tutor, and discussion of research progress is undertaken during regular tutorials. Students submit a 10,000 word dissertation summarising their findings and deliver an oral presentation on their work. For students pursuing STS degrees. Others by permission of module co-ordinator.
Co-ordinator: TBC
Meeting sessions: Terms 1 and 2. Fortnightly tutorials with supervisor.
Assessment: Presentation (15 minutes) - 20%, Plan/Proposal (1000 words) – 10%, Dissertation (10,000 words) - 70%.

**HPSC3026 Research Project**
Students undertake an independent research project of their own design in the field of science and technology studies. An appropriate supervisor is selected in consultation with the module tutor. Discussion of research is undertaken during regular tutorials. Permission required. Normally, this module is open only to students enrolled in our intercalated BSc programme.
Co-ordinator: TBC
Meeting Sessions: Terms 1 and 2 fortnightly tutorials with supervisor.
Assessment: Coursework (2,000 words) -10%, Presentation Term 2 (20 minutes) (15%), Dissertation (10,000 words) (75%)