

Science, Technology and Society STAS 591 L01

Integrative Seminar

Winter 2011

Tu 14:00 – 16:50

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 – 12:00 or by appointment

Additional Information

Course Description

STAS 591 is an integrative “capstone” seminar that brings together all of the central themes of science and technology studies as encountered by students in the core STAS curriculum. Through a combination of seminars and a final term project, the aim of the course is for students to review and re-evaluate the core concepts of science and technology studies and to gain experience deploying these concepts in the exploration of real-life issues and problems.

Objectives of the Course

Review, discuss and contextualize key concepts and themes from the core STAS curriculum.

Prepare term projects that apply the STAS curriculum to real life problems and issues.

Develop advanced presentation and argumentation skills relevant to analysis and critique of science, technology and society issues.

Internet and electronic communication device information

It is disruptive to the learning goals of the seminar to engage in electronically enabled activities unrelated to the seminar discussions. Students are reminded to turn mobile telephones and other electronic devices off during the sessions and to use laptops for course-related purposes only. Students not wishing to comply with these terms may be asked to withdraw from the session.

Students expecting emergency communications during a session are exempted from these provisions upon prior notification of the instructor.

Electronic recording of lectures will be permitted only for students who have a formally diagnosed physical or learning disability that requires this action. Written proof of disclosure of such disabilities to the relevant university administrative bodies will be required before such permission is granted (refer to the Students with Disabilities section below).

Otherwise, students are encouraged to make creative use of media in the seminar whenever they wish, and especially in presentations. Students who may have special media requirements for seminar presentations other than an Ethernet connection and classroom projector should notify the instructor at least 4 weeks beforehand so that arrangements can be made with Media Services.

Textbooks and Readings:

Lee Smolin (2007) *The Trouble with Physics*, New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Assignments and Evaluation

Seminar participation 10%

Seminar presentations (2) 40% (20% each)

Term project (including presentation) 50%

All term project documentation is due on the final day of class.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture (Revised, effective September 2008):

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (MacEwan Student Centre 4th floor, efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/compliance/ethics/info/undergrad/>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Session	Date		
1	Jan 11	Introduction and organization	
2	Jan 18	Introductory lecture/discussion: Science in an unscientific world	
Seminar Block I		Reading: Smolin, <i>The Trouble with Physics</i>	
3	Jan 25	I. Chapters 1-3	II. Chapters 4-6
4	Feb 1	I. Chapters 7-9	II. Chapters 10-12
5	Feb 8	I. Chapters 13-15	II. Chapters 16-18
6	Feb 15	I. Chapters 19-20	II. General discussion
Reading week Feb 21-25			
Seminar Block II		Themes and texts: Chosen by students	
7	Mar 1	Seminar I	Seminar II
8	Mar 8	Seminar I	Seminar II
9	Mar 15	Seminar I	Seminar II
10	Mar 22	Seminar I	Seminar II
Final Project Presentations			
11	Mar 29	Presentation I	Presentation II
12	Ap 5	Presentation I	Presentation II
13	Ap 12	Presentation I	Presentation II