

Fall 9-1-2018

## GEO 304E.80: Science and Society Honors

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## Science and Society

**Course requirements:** This course will be graded based on, in equal proportion, the midterm score, participation in class discussions including one class that you will moderate in the second half of the term, and a final project consisting of participation in some local or national issue related to science. Examples of possible projects include: a letter to the newspaper, to your Congressional delegation, or to local government representatives; volunteer time with a local advocacy group; a presentation in a local school or to a local group; an organized outreach effort; or another participatory activity (approved by the instructor).

**Learning goals:** The goals of this course include developing proficiency in the following skills: applying concepts and forms of reasoning to ethical issues in science topics, analyzing and evaluating forms of reasoning, identifying and using traditions of ethical thought, identifying and using traditions in the history of science, and evaluating ethical discourse.

**Course structure:** The structure of the class is based on Socratic discussion. In the first half of the term, we will alternate between readings from the textbook, which give historical context, and corresponding primary sources writing on ethics. You will be expected to discuss the readings in class in detail, so you should be familiar with the material before our meetings. In the second half of the term, we will use philosophical tools and historical context to discuss urgent modern issues with both ethical and scientific components. One class meeting on each topic will be moderated by the instructor and the other by a group of students. Readings or activities in student-run meetings will be chosen by the students.

**Texts:** A. Ede and L. Cormack, *A history of science in society*, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2004.

M. Sandel, *Justice: what's the right thing to do?* New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2009.

M. Sandel, *Justice: a reader*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

**Instructor:** Rebecca Bendick, SC 331

[Bendick@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Bendick@mso.umt.edu)

office hours: MF 10:00-12:00 or by appointment

### **Part 1: history and philosophy of science**

August 28: introduction to the class structure

August 30: Introduction to ethics

Reading: Sandel chapter 1

Sept 4-6: the ancients

September 5: E&C Chapter 1

September 7: Sandel chapter 8 and excerpt from Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics" in *Justice: a reader*

- September 11-13: the early Christian era and Islamic scholarship
  - September 12: E&C 2
  - September 14: the Ten Commandments, excerpts from Paul's Epistles
- September 18-20: the revival of western science and philosophy
  - September 19: E&C 3
  - September 21: excerpt from Thomas Aquinas "Summa Part II"
- September 25-27: Renaissance, exploration, and scientific revolution
  - September 26: E&C 4
  - September 28: Galileo "Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina"
- October 2-4: Scientific revolution and modern methods
  - October 3: E&C 5
  - October 5: excerpt from Locke "Second Treatise of Government" in Justice: a reader—Chapter 1-7
- October 9-11: Enlightenment
  - October 10: E&C 6
  - October 12: Sandel chapter 2
    - Excerpt from Bentham "Principles of Morals and Legislation" and from Mill "Utilitarianism" in Justice: a reader— Mill: Ch. 1,2,5
- October 16-18: Kantian ethics
  - October 17: Sandel chapter 5
  - October 19: excerpts from Kant "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals" and Kant "On the supposed right to lie" in Justice: a reader
- October 23-25: Modern ethics
  - October 24: Sandel chapter 6
  - October 26: excerpts from Rawls "A Theory of Justice" in Justice: a reader

**Part 2: modern issues of science and ethics**

**Specific topics of discussion and materials will be selected by the instructor and students from current media.**

- October 30-November 1: topic 1
- November 6-8: topic 2
- November 13-15: topic 3
- November 20 and 27: topic 4
- November 29 and December 4: topic 5
- December 6: wrapup and final discussion

*All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.*

*All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.*