History 3350  History and Philosophy of Science  Spring 2009

Instructor:  Dr. Eric Swedin and Dr. Adam Johnston
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Office Hours:  3:00-5:30 on Wednesdays and Thursdays at Davis (Swedin)
  9:00-11:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (Johnston)
  Other office hours are available by appointment.


Class Description:
The evolution and practice of Western science from origins to contemporary ideas.  The goal of this course is to encourage the student to think about science from an historical perspective, and to appreciate how science can inform the study of history.

Class participation and discussion is expected.

Grading Policies:
Grades will be determined on the following basis:

  Quizzes  60%
  Time-line assignment  20%
  Class Presentation  20%

Grades:  A: 90 - 100%  B: 80 - 89%  C: 70 - 79%  D: 60 - 69%  E: 0 - 59%

Quizzes:  There will a quiz every day at the beginning of class.  Each quiz will be based on the readings that you were given for that day, or will be given on the content of the previous class’s presentations.  You may miss four quizzes; if you take extra quizzes, they will count as extra credit.

Cheating Policy:  Cheating and deceit are not accepted Weber State University.  Cheating on an exam or assignment, or turning in someone else’s work as your own, will result in an E for the class.  You may work together on your assignments and papers, but you must turn in your own work.  If you quote from a book, article, or web site, you must properly quote and cite your work.  Avoid even the appearance of cheating or plagiarism.
**Timeline Exercise:**
Objective: Review of key events of the history of science; gain an increased understanding of historical perspective.

Make a timeline of what you see as the 30 most important events in the history of science from prehistory to the present. Use our textbook or an encyclopedia or the Internet to find your information. For each entry, include a 2-3 sentence justification for your choice. Timeline MUST be typed.
Grading will be based on three criteria:
1) Completion of 30 world history events and 2-3 sentence descriptions.
2) Neatness and presentation.
3) Grammatical or mechanical errors.

**Class Presentation:**
Each student must select a book that falls into one of the following categories:
- the history of science
- the history of medicine
- history of technology
- the philosophy of science (including ethical issues)
- the philosophy of medicine (including ethical issues)

Attached is a list of suggested books. Other books may be used by the student, subject to approval by the instructor. On an assigned date, the student will give a 15-20 minute in-class presentation on their book. Describe the content of the book and explain how it fits within the history and philosophy of science. The purpose of this exercise is to introduce the class to the variety of literature available on the history and philosophy of science.

**Students with Disabilities:**
Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>Introduction to class</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 1</td>
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<td>January 13</td>
<td>Lecture Comparing Everyday and Astronomical Distances (no readings)</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 2</td>
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<td>January 20</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 3</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 4</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 5</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 6</td>
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<td>February 3</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 7</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 8</td>
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<td>February 10</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 9</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 10</td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 11</td>
<td>Lecture on Evolution or Revolutions in Science? (no readings)</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 12</td>
<td>Students 1-3 presentations</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 13</td>
<td>Students 4-6 presentations</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Spring break</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 14; <strong>Timeline assignment due</strong></td>
<td>Students 7-9 presentations</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Readings: Gribbon 15</td>
<td>Students 10-12 presentations</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>Guest Lecture</td>
<td>Students 13-15 presentations</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Students 16-18 presentations</td>
<td>Guest Lecture</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>Students 19-21 presentations</td>
<td>Students 22-24 presentations</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Spare day</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td><strong>NO Final Exam</strong></td>
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Some Suggested Books for Class Presentation


Maitland A. Edey and Donald C. Johanson, *Blueprints: Solving the Mystery of Evolution* (1990)


David M. Friedman, *The Immortalists: Charles Lindbergh, Dr. Alexis Carrel, and Their Daring Quest to Live Forever* (2007)


Selected science fiction novels.