

**Instructor:**

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Office hours: Tuesday, 3:30-5:30 in SS250.

Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 in D2-137L.

Thursday, 3:30-5:30 in SS250.

Other office hours are available by appointment via email.

**Texts:**

Chris Impey and Holly Henry, *Dreams of Other Worlds: The Amazing Story of Unmanned Space Exploration* (Princeton University Press, 2013).

ISBN-10: 0691147531

ISBN-13: 978-0691147536

William E. Burrows, *This New Ocean: The Story of the First Space Age* (Modern Library, 1999).

ISBN-10: 0375754857

ISBN-13: 978-0375754852

**Class Description and Objectives:**

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.

Participation in the class and class discussions are expected.

**Grading Policies:**

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Quizzes	50%
Time-line Assignment	20%
Oral Book Report Presentation	20%
Class participation	10%

Grades: A: 90 - 100% B: 80 - 89% C: 70 - 79% D: 60 - 69% E: 0 - 59%  
(Grades at the high or low ends of these ranges will earn plus and minus grades.)

**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.

**Quizzes:** There will be a quiz every day at the beginning of class. Each quiz will be based on the readings that you were given for that day, what we discussed the previous week, or will be given on the content of the previous class's presentations.

**Cheating Policy:** Cheating and deceit are not accepted at Weber State University. *Cheating on an quiz 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.**

**Cell Phones, Texting, and Laptops:**

Put your cell phones on vibrate. Try to avoid leaving class to take a call, but an occasional emergency is understandable. There will be NO texting in this class. Laptops or other personal digital tools may be used to take notes or look up material relevant to class discussions. No other uses of laptops will be tolerated.

**Campus Closure:**

In the event of an extended campus closure, please look at your Weber State email for instructions on how we will continue the class via email and the online course system.

**Timeline Exercise:**

Objective: Review of key events of the history of science; gain an increased understanding of historical perspective.

Make a chronological timeline of what you see as the 30 most important events in the history of science from prehistory to the present. Use our textbooks or an encyclopedia or the Internet to find your information. For each entry, include the date and a 2-3 sentence justification for your choice. Timeline **MUST** be typed; you may email it to me. Grading will be based on three criteria:

- 1) Chronologically identify 30 significant events in the history of science and/or history of technology. Include two or three sentences with each event describing the nature of the event and why it was important.
- 2) Neatness and presentation.
- 3) Grammatical or mechanical errors.

### **Oral Book Report:**

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)

A list of suggested books is available at <http://www.swedin.org/>. Other books may be used by the student, subject to approval by the instructor. On an assigned date, the student will give a ten minute in-class presentation on their book. No written report is required. No oral book report will go beyond fifteen minutes. 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.

### **Oral Book Report Suggestions:**

These are suggestions on how to prepare your book report.

- Look up some scholarly reviews of the book, as well as reading it, since the reviews can help you place the book in a larger context. Reviews on Amazon or similar sites are usually not the best reviews for these type of books.
- Ask yourself these questions and answer them during the presentation:
  - Who is the author and why are they qualified to write this book?
  - What is the book about and when was it published?
  - Why was this book written?
  - Summarize the story being told or the arguments being made in the book.
  - What is the main point the author is trying to make?
  - What perspective is the author trying to represent in writing this text?
- When reviewing a novel, don't concentrate on talking about characters or plot, concentrate on its relevance to the history of science.

Scoring rubric:

Read book: Gave a clear description of text in its entirety. (40 points)

Synthesis: Understood bigger picture of text, connected small tidbits together and within larger themes. (20 points)

Presentation: Your manner was clear, organized, and prepared. Could answer questions. (35 points)

Personal insight: Made personal connections to book, could see implications of text. (5 points)

**Schedule:**

Week	Thursday
September 3	Introduction to class (no readings)
September 10	Readings: Burrows, Forward, Chapters 1-2
September 17	Readings: Burrows, Chapters 3-4
September 24	No class (ComicCon)
October 1	Readings: Burrows, Chapters 5-6
October 8	Readings: Burrows, Chapters 7-8
October 15	Readings: Burrows, Chapters 9-10
October 22	Readings: Burrows, Chapter 11 Film
October 29	Readings: Burrows, Chapter 12; Impey and Henry, Chapters 1-3 Students 1-2 presentation
November 5	Readings: Burrows, Chapter 13; Impey and Henry, Chapters 4-5 Students 3-4 presentation
November 12	Readings: Burrows, Chapter 14; Impey and Henry, Chapters 6-7 Students 5-6 presentation
November 19	Readings: Burrows, Chapter 15; Impey and Henry, Chapters 8-9 Students 7-8 presentation
November 26	Thanksgiving
December 3	Readings: Burrows, Chapter 16; Impey and Henry, Chapters 10-11 Students 9-10 presentation <b>Timeline assignment due</b>
December 10	Readings: Burrows, Chapter 17; Impey and Henry, Chapters 12-13 Students 11-12 presentation
December 17	No Class, No Final