

## Core Seminar in Science Studies (COGR 225B, HIGR 239, SOCG 255B)

Tuesdays, 10:00 - 12:50, H&SS 3027

Professor: Tal Golan [tgolan@ucsd.edu](mailto:tgolan@ucsd.edu)

### Science and the Public Sphere

Science has been taken to both represent and pursue the values upon which western polity is constructed. Scientific expertise have been treated as indispensable and essential to the flourishing of late modern society, while scientific discourse has been treated as a model for the democratic discourse through which the state is held accountable in public. During the late 20<sup>th</sup> century two central tensions have come to trouble this congregation: the first, between scientific expertise fostered in elite communities, and the lay discourse fostered in the public sphere; the second, between the growing administrative state and the capacity of science to legitimate its regulatory regimes.

In the course we aim to unpack some of these complex relations. We will look at the history of some of these tensions; examine various critiques and check what other models have been suggested for public participation in public decisions rich with techno-science.

### Preliminary reading list:

Steven Turner, *Liberal Democracy 3.0: Civil Society in an Age of Experts* (Sage, 2003).

Michael Gibbons et al., *The New Production of Knowledge* (Sage, 1994).

Frank Fischer, *Democracy and Expertise* (Oxford UP, 2009)

James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (Yale UP, 1998)

Steven Shapin, *The Scientific Life: A Moral History of a Late Modern Scientific Vocation* (University of Chicago Press, 2008).

Tal Golan, *Laws of Men and Laws of Nature: The History of Expert Testimony in the England and America* (Harvard UP, 2004).

Jasanoff, Sheila, *Designs on Nature: Science and Democracy in Europe and the United States* (Princeton UP, 2005)

Christopher Hamlin and Philip T. Shepard *Deep Disagreement in U.S. Agriculture: Making Sense of Policy Conflict* (Westview Press, 1993)

- More readings will be announced later. The readings will be available on the course website, or via SSH library electronic reserves (<http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx>) or placed on physical reserve at SSH.

### **Class work**

A group of students will lead each session. They will do the following three things:

1. Before class:  
Prepare a set of questions and email it to the rest of the class by Monday prior.
2. During class  
Present a short review in class and lead the discussion
3. After class  
Write a 5 pages essay and enter it the week after.

Each student should present at least two times during the quarter and submit two review papers.

### **Attendance policy.**

Attendance at seminars is mandatory. If you miss more than two seminars during the term, without a valid reason you may receive a failing grade for the course.

### **Assessment**

Two review papers: 25% each

Final paper: 50%

## **Program**

### **Week 1 Introductory session:**

Excerpts from Hackett et al., *The Handbook of Science and Technology Studies, Third Edition* (2008).

### **Week 2 Science and Democracy:**

Steven Turner, *Liberal Democracy 3.0*

Presenters:

### **Week 3 Science and State**

James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State*

Presenters:

### **Week 4 Science and Policy**

Frank Fischer, *Democracy and Expertise*

Presenters:

### **Week 5 Science and Academy**

Michael Gibbons et al., *The New Production of Knowledge*

Presenters:

### **Week 6 Science and Law**

Golan, *Laws of Men and Laws of Nature:*

Presenters:

### **Week 7 Science and Morality**

Shapin, *The Scientific Life.*

Presenters:

### **Week 8 Case Study I: Agriculture**

Hamlin and Shepard, *Deep Disagreement in U.S. Agriculture.*

Presenters:

### **Week 9 Case Study II: Biotechnology**

Jasanoff, *Designs on Nature*

Presenters:

### **Week 10 TBA**

**Class list:**

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