

**HISC 131: Science, Technology and Law**  
**Spring Quarter 2012**  
**Prof. Tal Golan**  
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Modern society has become increasingly dependent on science and technology. Exploring various case studies, from expert scientific evidence such as fingerprints and lie-detectors, to technological feats such as biotech and the internet, we will examine how science, technology and law interact to maintain progress, rationality and social order in modern society.

**Time and location:** TuTh 2-3:30 p.m. WLH 2205

**Professor Golan Office hours:** Th 1-2 p.m., or by appointment.

**Professor Golan Office** H&SS bldg room 4044

**Teaching Assistant:** Liz Petrick [erpetric@ucsd.edu](mailto:erpetric@ucsd.edu) Office Hours: TBA

**Week 1 Introduction**

**Apr 3 Introduction**

Goldberg, Steven, *Culture Clash: Law and Science in America*, 1-25.

**Apr 5 History**

Golan, Tal, The History of Scientific Expert Testimony in the English Courtroom, *Science in Context* (1999) 12:7-32

**Week 2 Scientific Evidence**

**Apr 10 Differentiating between Good and Bad Science**

Golan, Laws of Man and Laws of Nature, Epilogue, 254-264

US Supreme Court Opinion in Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

**Apr 12 What Makes Evidence Scientific? The case of Fingerprints**

Simon Cole, "What Counts for Identity? The Historical Origins of the Methodology of latent Fingerprint identification," *Science in Context* (1999) 12:139-172

**Week 3 Visual Evidence**

**Apr 17 What Makes Evidence Unscientific? The case of the Lie-Detector**

Tal Golan, Laws of Man and Laws of Nature, 211-253.

**Apr 19 Photographs: what you see is what you get?**

Jennifer Mnookin, The Image of Truth

**Week 4 Medicine and law**

**Apr 24 Imaging technologies**

Tal Golan, Laws of Man and Laws of Nature, 175-210.

**Apr 26 Insanity Defense + Malpractice**

Reading TBA (check on the website)

## **Week 5 Regulation**

### **May 1 Questions of life and death**

Jasanoff, *Science at the Bar*, 163-203

### **May 3 Regulation:**

Sheila Jasanoff, *Science at the Bar*, pp 69-92

## **Week 6 Mid-Term Exam**

### **May 8 Tort**

Peter H. Schuck, *Agent Orange on Trial*, excerpts

### **May 10 Midterm Exam**

## **Week 7 Society**

### **May 15 Eugenics**

Davenport, *Eugenics* (1910)

### **May 17 Religion**

H.Allen Orr, *Devolution: Why intelligent design isn't*, *New Yorker*, Mar 30, 2006.

## **Week 8 Economy**

### **May 22 Patents**

Daniel Kevles – *The Gene Patent Controversy*

*The Gene Patent Controversy* - 2010 update

### **May 24 Biotech**

Michael Spectre, “Decoding Iceland,” *New Yorker*, 18, 1999, 40-50

## **Week 9 Technology**

### **May 29 Pharmaceutical**

David Healy, *Shaping the intimate*, *Social Studies of Science* (April 2004)

34:219–245

### **May 31 Internet**

Jack Goldsmith and Tim Wu, *Who controls the internet?* 1-48.

## **Week 10 Future Challenges**

### **Jun 5 Global Warming**

*Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*

### **Jun 7 What have we learned?**

## **Final examination: Date and Location TBA**

### Course Policies

- Full attendance in all classes is expected of all students.
- Students are required to read the assigned readings and submit their comments on-line before each meeting, by 12 p.m. (noon)
  - The comment should be no longer than half a page.
  - The comments will be read and checked, but not graded.
  - Late submission will not be accepted.

### Grades

Attendance + weekly commentaries on the assigned readings: 20%.

Mid-term: 40%

Final exam: 40%

### Bibliography

Required Books:

1. Tal Golan, *Laws of Man and Laws of Nature: A History of Scientific Expert Testimony* (Harvard University Press, 2004)
2. Sheila Jasanoff, *Science at the Bar: Law, Science, and Technology in America* (Harvard University Press, 1995)

**\* All other readings will be posted in the**