

Course Schedule

weekly topics and reading prep	online lab session assignments / due dates
introduction [week 1]	
<p>week 1</p> <p>Tues / 8.24 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Course goals, themes, logistics <input type="checkbox"/> How does a hybrid course work? <input type="checkbox"/> What are online lab sessions? <p>Thurs / 8.26 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory presentation on “popular culture” <input type="checkbox"/> In-class exercise: DAST <p>Reading Prep: Petracca and Sorapure, excerpt from <i>Common Culture</i> / handout Roslynn Haynes, “Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know: Why do Scientists have Such a Bad Press?” / handout</p>	<p>Online introductory assignment #1: Post by 5:00 on Wednesday 8.25 at the class discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduce yourself (instructions at the board) <p>Online introductory assignment #2: Post by 5:00 on Monday 8.30 at the class discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 300-600 word memory about a childhood experience with science or nature <p>Online introductory assignment #3: Post by 5:00 on Wednesday 9/1 at your group discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Find/read childhood memory essays from your group members and respond to the discussion question
unit 1: professional science & popular culture: classic themes [weeks 2-4]	
<p>week 2</p> <p>Tues / 8.31 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Presentation on Scientific Imagery and What it Communicates: Poetry and Newton’s <i>Principia</i>, White Labcoats, magazine advertisements, and Franklin’s Kite <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion of Gawande, “The Checklist” <p>Reading Prep:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Atul Gawande, “The Checklist” http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/12/10/071210fa_fact_gawande?printable=true <input type="checkbox"/> Blum, <i>Ghost Hunters</i>, Prelude and Chapters 1-2 <p>Thurs / 9.2 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Small groups in person / discuss childhood experience essays <input type="checkbox"/> Continue Presentation on Scientific Images: Heroic Science and Franklin; Einstein = “Science” 	<p>Online introductory assignment #4: Post by 5:00 on Wednesday 9.1 at your group discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> View “Benjamin Franklin Drawing Electricity from the Sky” (1819) and respond to the instructions http://www.benfranklin300.org/frankliniana/result.php?id=14&sec=1 <p>Online introductory assignment #5: Post by 5:00 on Monday 9/6 at the class discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Find an Einstein image from the web to share, post the link, and add your own commentary on why it fits with our themes

week 3	<p>Tues / 9.7 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation on how regulating professional boundaries helps to define “what is science?” Case study: images of “real” and “pseudo” science: the question of psychic phenomena <p>Reading Prep: Blum, <i>Ghost Hunters</i>, chapters 3-6 William Evans, “Science and Reason in Film and Television,” <i>Skeptical Inquirer</i>, Jan/Feb 1996 http://www.csicop.org/si/show/science_and_reason_in_film_and_television/ “How Not to Respond to the X-Files,” <i>Nature</i>, 27 August 1998, vol. 394, issue #6696, p. 815 / handout</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 9.13 at the small group discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> View the following episode of “Ghost Hunters: “Spirits of the Night” (2010/ 44 minutes) and write response to discussion board questions http://www.syfy.com/gh/episodes.php?seasonid=6&episodeid=609
week 4	<p>Tues / 9.14 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion of issues in Blum, <i>Ghost Hunters</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific Images, continued: the Frankenstein icon, “mad scientists” in the mass media, and the cold equations <p>Reading Prep: Blum, <i>Ghost Hunters</i>, chapters 7-9, 12 (10-11 optional)</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Friday 9.17 at your group discussion board after viewing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> View Walt Disney’s “Mickey Mouse: The Mad Doctor” (1933, 7 minutes) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywukfQqKX-g <input type="checkbox"/> View <i>Felix the Cat</i>, “Felix Baby-sits” (1959, 8 minutes) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKrgaBBmlGU
unit 2: science fiction and the question of scientific progress [weeks 5-7]		
week 5	<p>Tues / 9.21 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ghost Hunters</i> paper due at the beginning of class <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory presentation on the history of science fiction: science fiction icons and their relationship to science in public <p>Reading Prep: James & Mendelsohn, <i>Science Fiction</i>, Foreword, chapters 1-3, 11 (chapters 4 and 6 are optional)</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Friday 9.25 at your group discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read and view “1939’s ‘World of Tomorrow’ shaped our today” [picture gallery] http://www.wired.com/thisdayintech/2010/04/gallery-1939-worlds-fair/all/1 <input type="checkbox"/> Read and view “April 30, 1939 : The Future Arrives at the New York World’s Fair” [includes 6 minute video] http://www.wired.com/thisdayintech/2010/04/0430new-york-worlds-fair-opens <input type="checkbox"/> View “All’s Fair at the Fair” (Max Fleischer, 1938 / 9 minutes) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3375ayox5k&feature=related

week 6	<p>Tues / 9. 28 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> History of science fiction (con.) <input type="checkbox"/> Forms of analysis of sf literature and film <p>Reading Prep: James & Mendelsohn, <i>Science Fiction</i>, pick one chapter from part 2; chapters 12-16</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 10.4 at your group discussion board in response to one of the radio programs below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> http://www.archive.org/details/XMinus1_A <p>Choose one of the following: “The Veldt” (1955); or “The Cold Equations” (1955); or “The Defenders” (1955). Each radio broadcast is 30 minutes in length</p>
week 7	<p>Tues / 10.5 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Science fiction expands its reach in the cold war era: outer space and inner space <p>Reading Prep: James & Mendelsohn, <i>Science Fiction</i>, chapters 5, 17-20 Cole, <i>Something Incredibly Wonderful</i>, chapters 1-2</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 10.11 at your group discussion board in response to viewing the television show below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Star Trek</i> “The Ultimate Computer” (1969, 51 minutes) <p>http://www.cbs.com/classics/star_trek/video/index.php?pid=PIOHhQGIG78HjjE_iz2tlfV1d15QfQYj</p>
<p>unit 3: science outside the laboratory: museums, television, classrooms, and popular magazines during the cold war era [weeks 8-10]</p>		
week 8	<p>Tues / 10.12 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Science fiction</i> paper due at the beginning of class <input type="checkbox"/> Science fact in public in the cold war era -- introductory presentation on scientific information as entertainment/education: the complexities of creating “science” museums <p>Reading Prep: Cole, <i>Something Incredibly Wonderful</i>, chapters 3-7</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 10.18 at your group discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Response to questions regarding the Exploratorium: http://www.exploratorium.edu/ <input type="checkbox"/> Prelinger Archives – survey the science films in order to pick one next week to use for the assignment for posting http://www.archive.org/details/prelinger
week 9	<p>Tues / 10.19 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Examples of “ephemeral” science content in the cold war era: the Prelinger films, and advertising the space race <p>Reading Prep: Cole, <i>Something Incredibly Wonderful</i>, chapters 8-12 Dennis Overbye, “Reaching for the Stars When Space was a Thrill,” <i>New York Times</i>, March 8, 2010 [also see interactive visual feature] http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/09/science/space/09space.html</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 10.25 at the class discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Post the name of the film you chose, a brief description, and your thoughts on how it fits with the course themes http://www.archive.org/details/prelinger

	<p>Tues/ 10.26 / In-class meeting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disney Science: theme parks, television, books and movies</p> <p>Reading Prep: Elizabeth Walker Mechling and Jay Mechling, “The Atom According to Disney,” <i>Quarterly Journal of Speech</i>, 1995, 81:436-453 / e-reserve</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 11.1 at your group discussion board</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> View Disney’s “Our Friend the Atom” [introduction, and five parts] and select a question to write about</p> <p>> “Our Friend the Atom” introduction http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghtOkz46JG4</p> <p>> “Our Friend the Atom,” Part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcdRQkJulAU&feature=related</p> <p>> “Our Friend the Atom,” Part 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HJD-II9_4g&feature=related</p> <p>> “Our Friend the Atom,” Part3 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ox20e_3nrec&feature=related</p> <p>> “Our Friend the Atom,” Part 4 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_f4kYYAQC3c&feature=related</p> <p>> “Our Friend the Atom,” Part 5 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMWOfbcAbgo&feature=related</p>
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unit 4: perspectives on nature: personal experience and popular culture [weeks 11-14]

<p>week 11</p>	<p>Tues / 11.2 / In-class meeting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Something Incredibly Wonderful Happens</i> paper due at the beginning of class</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Presentation on science in the family circle in the Victorian era</p> <p>Reading Prep: Cox, grayson (begin)</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 11.8 at your group discussion board</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Post assignment from questions about “Little Scientists in Victorian Times” website [url to come]</p>
<p>week 12</p>	<p>Tues / 11.9 / In-class meeting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Presentation on children and zoos/aquaria; adults and nature documentaries (excerpt from <i>March of the Penguins</i> / 2005)</p> <p>Reading Prep: Cox, grayson (finish)</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 11.15 at your small group discussion board</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SeaWorld http://www.seaworld.com/</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> viewer comments on March of the Penguins at imdb.com http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0428803/usercomments</p>

week 13	<p>Tues / 11.16 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>grayson</i> paper due at the beginning of class <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion of human/animal relationships, anthropomorphism, and views of nature <p>Reading Prep: “Dolphins in Popular Literature and Media” http://www.animalsandsociety.org/assets/library/622_dolphinsinpopularliteratu.pdf google “shark tunnels” (web + images)</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Monday 11.22 at your group discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discovery Channel’s “Shark Week” http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/shark-week/ <input type="checkbox"/> “Air Jaws” (take in portion of the 43-minute show) http://www.fancast.com/tv/Ultimate-Air-Jaws/140895/1555945896/Ultimate-Air-Jaws/videos <input type="checkbox"/> “Human Week,” <i>The Colbert Report</i> (2009) http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/240785/august-05-2009/human-week
week 14	<p>Tues / 11.23 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The concept of human/animal kinship: Saying “Hello” to the Relatives? Film: <i>Among the Wild Chimpanzees</i> (Nat’l Geo. / 1984) <p>Reading Prep: Deborah Blum, “The Primatologist,” <i>New York Times</i>, 11.26.2006 http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/26/books/Blum.t.html?_r=1&ref=jane_goodall&pagewanted=all</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Holiday: No Online Lab Session Assignment</p>
week 15	<p>Tues / 11.30 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion: themes, hypotheses, and tentative conclusions regarding science and popular culture <p>Thurs / 12.2 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Small group discussion of final project papers / Class discussion of questions, problems, new lines of analysis <p>Reading Prep: Your group member’s final project descriptions (you will bring one question for each person)</p>	<p>Post by 5:00 on Wednesday 12.1 at the class discussion board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a 500 word description of your final project [this is a required part of the Final Project Paper]
week 16	<p>Tues / 12. 7 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Final run-through on interpretive techniques, with special class materials <p>Thurs / 12.9 / In-class meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Paper consultations (optional) 	
<p>Final Project Paper due Monday, December 13th from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in our classroom</p>		

