

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
FALL 2017**

ASCI*2050 Uses of Knowledge

Instructor: Dr. Lev Marder
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Office: 044 MacKinnon Building
Office hours: 9:00-11:00AM
Lectures: Monday, Wednesday 11:30AM - 12:20PM

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description:

This course explores the ways in which academic knowledge can be transferred, translated and mobilized to the world and used to remedy social problems. Through historical and/or current case studies and using the knowledge acquired in their two minors, students will learn to assess and defend conflicting points of view both in written and oral formats. Through group exercises, students will learn to work collaboratively and envisage themselves as engaged citizens.

Specific course description:

Barrier to the communication of scientific knowledge supposedly prevent the proper functioning, the knowledge-based rational decision-making, of democratic societies. Should all barriers be removed, are some necessary and are some even barriers? In this course, by analyzing case studies from multiple perspectives, we will discuss and formulate defensible positions on several barriers to the transfer of scientific knowledge: (1) the problems around the scientific discourse itself; (2) political commercialization of science; (3) legal and political distribution of ignorance; and (4) public (mis)trust of experts. This will help us gain a better grasp on the interrelation between academic knowledge, public policy, political and other forces and how scientific knowledge can be mobilized to both exasperate and remedy socio-political problems.

Course objectives:

- Students will explore the ways in which academic knowledge can be transferred, translated and mobilized to the world and used to remedy social problems (depth and breadth of understanding)
- Assess and defend conflicting points of view both in written and oral formats
- Develop collaborative learning through a graded group exercise

- Develop engaged citizenship

Learning outcomes:

- Students will be able to analyze and evaluate competing perspectives on the role language plays in facilitating and hindering communication and use of science.
- Students will be able to independently and collaboratively formulate arguments on whether a barrier to the use of knowledge, such as commercialization of research, exists and if it is a useful or necessary one.
- Students will gain proficiency in synthesizing and presenting specialized knowledge, arguments and analyses accurately and appropriately for fellow scholars and the general public using in-depth research and writing of editorials.
- Students will be able to engage in collaborative learning and assessing the work of their peers through a graded group exercise
- Students will be able to recognize that knowledge is context specific, reflect on its limitations, and acknowledge how these limitations influence analyses, interpretation, and worldviews.

Prerequisites: (ASCI*1000 or ASCI*1110) and (ASCI*1010 or ASCI*1120)

Text: *All course readings will be available through Courselink.*

Method of Presentation: Lecture and seminar

Method of Evaluation:

Quizzes	10%
Seminar Participation	15%
Midterm	20%
Assignments	25%
Final Examination	30%

Final Exam: 06/12/2017 19:00-21:00

Notes:

Syllabus: Available through courselink

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.