ASCI*1110  2020F    Society and Inquiry I

Instructor: Prof. D. Bruce

In the 21st century we are quite literally ‘surrounded by science’. Science impacts everything in our world and all aspects of our lives: food, transportation, communication, health, entertainment, all the human-made physical objects that surround us, our very understanding of the natural and social worlds, and many more areas. This course is an introduction into the social, political, and cultural dimensions of science and technology. Divided into four thematic areas, the course will examine a number of cases which focus on understanding science as a human activity. Some of the topics we will study are: the discovery of DNA, the development of nuclear energy, science and environmentalism, the role of women in science, the responsibility of the scientist, the role of popular culture as a vehicle for science communication. We will also consider science as a human activity that has been shaped by particular individuals, as well as by larger social and cultural contexts. The main historical focus of the course will be post 1900. Students will have the opportunity to develop communication skills in written, oral, and visual communication.

The course will be delivered in a mixed format: posted readings, videos, lectures; and live discussions.

Course Assignments/Evaluation:

Discussion board  15%
Team Podcast  20%
Written Assignment 1  15%
Written Assignment 2  20%
Final Reflection Exercise  10%
Final Project  20%

Note: This is an approximate course outline and is subject to change over the summer.