

**Finalized Schedule of Topics**

<b>Week 1</b> (Jan 27, 29)	<b>Introduction</b>
Mon:	Theme: Demarcation? Read (Background): Harker (2015) Chaps 1, 2. Lecture 01a - Confirmation and disconfirmation.
Weds:	Read: Gordin (2017); Schick & Vaughn (2005) pp. 273-8 ("SEARCH" formula). Lecture 01b - Feasibility of demarcation criteria. Assignment: 3 discussion questions on Gordin (2017) (keep one copy and turn in another).
<b>Week 2</b> (Feb 3, 5)	<b>Naturalism: Origins</b>
Mon:	Theme: Historical contingency of science. Read: Stanley (2016) <i>Huxley's Church &amp; Maxwell's Demon</i> , Chaps 2, 3. Discussion - Uniformity of laws of nature; limits of science. Assignment: 3 discussion questions on reading (keep one copy and turn in another).
Weds:	Read: Stanley (2016) <i>Huxley's Church &amp; Maxwell's Demon</i> , Chaps 7, Conclusion. Discussion - Theistic science vs naturalistic science. Assignment: 3 discussion questions on reading (keep one copy and turn in another).
<b>Week 3</b> (Feb 10, 12)	<b>Intelligent Design</b>
Mon:	Theme: What is a scientific explanation? Read: Harker (2015) Chap 9; Berra (1990) Chaps 1, 2. Lecture 02 - Scientific Explanation.
Weds:	Read: Berra (1990) Chaps 3, 4, 5. Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions on reading. <b>Presentation:</b> 1. Zachary Atwood: "ID and the courts"
<b>Week 4</b> (Feb 17, 19)	<b>20th Century Pseudoscience: Origins</b>
Mon:	Theme: Rhetoric and science. <b>No Class</b> (Presidents Day), but read: Gordin (2016) <i>The Pseudoscience Wars</i> , Chaps 1, 2.
Weds:	Read: Gordin (2016) <i>The Pseudoscience Wars</i> , Chaps 3, 6, Conclusion. Discussion - rhetoric of science; catastrophism vs uniformitarianism. Assignment: 3 discussion questions on reading (keep one copy and turn in another). <b>Presentation:</b> 1. Taimur Ghani: "ID and the age of the Earth"
<b>Week 5</b> (Feb 24, 26)	<b>Psychic Phenomena</b>
Mon:	Theme: Fallacies of reasoning. Reading: Harker (2015) Chaps 5, 6; Schick & Vaughn (2005) Chap 6. Lecture 03 - Inductive Arguments and Fallacies. <b>Presentation:</b> 1. Srivatsan Ramesh: "Prophetic dreams" 2. Nia Asemota: "Psychic readings"
Weds:	Read: Background: Hines (2003) Chaps 2-4. Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions. <b>Presentations</b> 1. Odeta Kurti: "Paranormal activity" 2. Mariam Oke: "Near-death/out-of-body experiences"
<b>Week 6</b> (March 2, 4)	<b>Public Health Controversies</b>
	Themes: Creating scientific controversies; science and public policy.

Mon: Read: Harker (2015) Chap 10.  
Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.

***Presentations:***

1. Yasha Ormut Durbin: "Vaccine critics"

Weds: Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.

***Presentations:***

1. Jiazhao Liang: "AIDs denialism"

2. Max White: "Vaping"

**Week 7 Induction**

(March 9, 11) Theme: Inductive reasoning.

Mon: Lecture 04 - Problem of Induction.

Weds: ***Midterm***

**Week 8 Spring Break**

(March 16, 18)

**Week 9 Dinosaur Extinctions**

(March 23, 25) Theme: Scientific change: revolutions, paradigms, and all that.

Mon: Read: Raup (1999) Chaps 1-4. [Background: Harker (2015) Chaps 3, 4.]  
Lecture 05 - Scientific Change.

1. Noor Faisal: "GM foods/GMOs"

Weds: Read: Raup (1999) Chaps 5, 6, 8, 12.

Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.

***Presentations:***

1. John Martinez: "The impact hypothesis"

2. James Murdoch: "The volcanism hypothesis"

**Week 10 Dinosaur Extinctions. II.**

(March 30, Apr 1) Theme: Scientific change, continued.

Mon: Read: Courtillot (2002) Chaps 2, 4.

Lecture 05 - Scientific Change, continued.

Weds: Read: Courtillot (2002) Chaps 8, 9.

Assignment: 3 discussion questions.

Discussion - Impact crater dating methods.

**Week 11 UFOs: Sightings, Cover-ups, Abductions!**

(Apr 6, 8) Theme: Personal experience vs evidence: perception.

Mon: Reading: Background: Hines (2003) Chaps 7, 8.

Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.

***Presentation:***

1. Renita Rashid: "Ancient astronauts"

Weds: Reading: Background: Hines (2003) Chaps 7, 8.

Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.

***Presentations:***

1. Lenny Remache: "Intelligent life in the universe"

2. Winnie Tsui: "Area 51"

**Week 12 Astrology and Mystical Experiences**

(Apr 13, 15) Theme: Knowledge and its acquisition.

Mon: Reading: Background: Schick & Vaugh (2005) Chap 5.

Lecture 06 - Knowledge and Skepticism.

Weds: Background: Hines (2003) Chap 6.  
Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.  
**Presentations:**  
1. Crystal Song: "Astrology"  
2. Katarina Nowack: "Moon madness"

**Week 13**  
(Apr 20, 22) **Intelligence and IQ**  
Themes: Causes vs correlations; scientific fraud.  
Mon: Read: Fancher (1985) Chaps 1, 2.  
Lecture 07 - Cyril Burt and Scientific Fraud.  
Presentation:

1. Mustafizur Munna: "Nature vs. nurture"  
Weds: Read: Fancher (1985) Chaps 4, 5, 6.  
Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.  
Discussion - Nature vs. Nurture.  
**Presentations:**  
1. Owen Larosiliere: "Genetic testing"  
2. Joel Urena: "Intelligence testing"

**Week 14**  
(Apr 27, 29) **Alternative Medicines**  
Themes: Causal reasoning; clinical studies.  
Mon: Read: Background: Schick & Vaughn (2005) xx.  
Lecture 08 - Causal Arguments and Mills Methods.

**Presentation:**  
1. Ge Yang: "Faith Healing"  
2. Karthik Ravikumar: "Big Foot"  
Weds: Read: Background: Hines (2003) Chaps 10, 11; Schick & Vaughn (2005) Chap 8.  
Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.  
**Presentations:**  
1. Nayondi Vargas: "Acupuncture"  
2. Christopher Kayel: "Herbal remedies"

**Week 15**  
(May 4, 6) **Climate Change**  
Themes: Creating scientific controversies; science and public policy.  
Mon: Read: Harker (2015) Chap 8.  
Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.

**Presentations:**  
1. Bum Jun Kwon: "Climate change: Evidence I"  
2. Sicong Liu: "Climate change: Evidence II"  
3. Genesis Almonte: "Climate change: Evidence III"  
Weds: Theme: Various  
Assignment (non-presenters): 3 discussion questions.  
**Presentations:**  
1. Victoria Zetterberg: "Loch Ness Monster"  
2. Katyana Jin: "Seances"

**Week 16**  
(May 11) **Review and Overlap**  
Mon: Review for final.