

CLASS SYLLABUS Spring 2015

HTS 3082 SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE, 2:05-2:55 PM., D.M. Smith, Room 207.
Instructor: Dr. W. Pearson, Jr. Office: OCE, Room 119 Phone: 385-2265
E-mail: willie.pearsonjr@hts.gatech.edu Office Hours: MWF: 1:00-2:00 PM and by appointment.

During my regularly scheduled office hours, if you are unable to meet or if I am unavailable (due to meetings), please leave a voice-mail message or speak with me after class and we can set up an appointment for an alternative time.

Required Readings: See *Course Calendar*. The required readings will be distributed in class or posted on T-Square. The instructor reserves the right to make revisions to the syllabus and course calendar. In case of revisions, the revised document will be distributed in class. You are responsible for work according to any and all changes.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Sociology of science investigates science as a social activity that takes place in a social context. There is a bi-directional relationship between science and society: science is influenced by society, and society is influenced by science. This course explores the (1) complex interactions between science and society, (2) processes by which scientists construct facts, (3) nature and autonomy of science, and (4) comparisons with other social institutions. The course will provide a brief socio-historical perspective of the field before examining selective controversies, such as climate change, environmental justice, transgenic foods, fracking, adequacy of the scientific and engineering workforce, cyborgs, and inequality. Although the course has sociology as its primary disciplinary focus, it draws on other disciplines as well.

Area E, Social Science learning objectives-Students will learn how social, political, and economic forces influence social behavior. Students will demonstrate that they have met Area E, social science objectives through writing weekly critical reviews on assigned readings, completing a final research paper on a topic related to the course material and giving a final presentation on their research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT

	Class Discussion	Critiques	Exams	Research presentation	Research paper
Distinguish between the various theoretical perspectives covered in the course	X	X	X		X
Write and/or discuss critical reviews of published works analyzing the strengths and	X	X			

date. Given the criticality of class participation, it is imperative that you keep up with your weekly reading assignments and be well prepared—this means having thought critically about the reading—to engage in a spirited but respectful discourse. As you read, it is highly recommended that you take notes and formulate questions. You are expected to be an active participant. Always bring your readings, notes and questions to each class. Participation is not evaluated in terms of how many times you comment, but by clearly demonstrating that you have read and understand the assignments, and the quality of your overall engagement in the discussion.

2. Research paper. The paper--10-15 pages, typed, double-space (including an abstract and ANNOTATED bibliography) may be single or co-authored. At least 80% of the references must be derived from scholarly journals and/or books. Details on the format and structure of the paper will be discussed in class. Both the abstract and final paper MUST incorporate one or more of the theoretical perspectives and methodologies covered in the lecture, and the implications of the findings for further research, programs, and policies. All websites used must have links embedded in the text. You are encouraged to seek assistance from the professionals at the GT library. The library staff is very knowledgeable about databases and other information sources. Approval of the topic is based on the acceptance of an abstract. *For hardcopy due date, see Course Calendar.*

3. Research Presentation. The research presentation will be scheduled during a scheduled class period. (A scoring rubric will be provided.) If your presentation involves the use of AV equipment, you are strongly advised to arrive early in order to test the equipment. If you plan to distribute handouts, you are responsible for providing a sufficient number of copies for the class. *Any missed presentation cannot be rescheduled because slots are pre-assigned.* The presentation must be clearly and professionally delivered. Please dress appropriately. *For the hardcopy due date, see Course Calendar.*

5. Critiques. *Critiques are not summaries.* Rather, they are focused arguments documented by evidence from the assigned (and unassigned) readings. The critique must examine the strengths and weaknesses of the authors' argument. In all cases, at least one theoretical perspective must be applied in the assessment. Informed opinions are encouraged. Hardcopy of the critical analysis of each assigned reading must be submitted in class (maximum 8 double-spaced, typed pages). *For the due dates, see the Course Calendar.*

6. Exams. Each exam consists of multiple choice and short-answer questions, and an essay covering an equal number of related assigned readings. The time of the exam is to be arranged with the instructor. *For the due dates, see the Course Calendar.*

BONUS points can be earned by submitting a 4-page (maximum) review of K.R. Manning (1983), *Black Apollo of Science: The Life of Ernest Everett Just*. New York: Oxford University Press OR R. Skloot (2010). *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

New York: Broadway Books. (1-2 points added to the final score). *You must commit to the review NLT February 1, 2014.*

NOTE 1: *At various points during the course, you are provided class release time to work on your research.*

NOTE 2:

- *The course requirements will be adjusted to serve the needs and capabilities of students with disabilities that may negatively impact academic performance. The Georgia Tech Honor Code applies to all student work.*
- *Your name and page number must appear on each page of all written assignments. Failure to do so results in an ungraded paper.*
- *Assignments are scheduled for each week. Because all written assignments are given far in advance; no tardy assignment will be accepted.*
- *Each student is responsible for returning each graded assignment to the coursework folder within one class week. A folder containing a weekly participation performance evaluation form and scored papers is provided in class for your review.*

Grading scale:

A = 100-90 Exceptional understanding of all materials: general ideas and specific details, facts as well as applications and connections.

B = 89-85 Very good understanding of most of the materials: some gaps in understanding details, applications, or connections.

C = 84-75 Satisfactory understanding of some materials: general ideas with substantial gaps in understanding of details, applications, or connections.

D = 74-65 Minimal understanding of the materials: superficial understanding of general ideas with significant failure to grasp details, applications, and connections.

F = below 65 Lack of understanding of the materials: general ideas, applications and connections.

Attendance Policy. Each student is responsible for signing the daily attendance sheet. Approved absences typically include: illness, religious holidays, family and personal emergencies, job interviews, and official representation of GT in extracurricular events. To the extent possible, email and leave a voice message regarding anticipated absences.

Classroom Protocol. Please adjust your cell phone to the “off” position during class. You are expected to respect your classmates by providing your undivided attention.

