

HONR 1331, Section 01
Science in Popular Movies
Fall, 2017: R 5:00-7:50 PM, LDB 220

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COURSE OVERVIEW: The primary objective of this course is to examine scientific accuracy in popular movies. Each week, we will have a guest lecturer with expertise in a specific discipline discuss the science as it is portrayed in the movie. The general format for each class will consist of a short intro to the scientific principles to be addressed, followed by watching the movie, then having a short discussion about the accuracy of the science presented in the movie. This format may vary from lecturer to lecturer, however.

COURSE EVALUATION: The course evaluation is divided into three sections:

Section	Points
Attendance	130
Discussion Essays	120
Paper	100
Total Points	350

Course grades will be determined on the following basis:

Point Totals	Course Grade
315 – 350 pts.	A
280 – 314 pts.	B
245 – 279 pts.	C
210 – 244 pts.	D
Below 210 pts.	F

Essays:

Each week you will be required to write a 300-400 word discussion on the week's topic. Due to time constraints, the in-class discussion may not touch on all points in the movie, but that doesn't mean you can't write about it. Each essay should include a summary of the discussion as well as other interesting points and/or questions you may have had that were not touched on in class. All essays should be submitted through Turnitin on Blackboard.

Paper:

Individuals will be assigned a movie at random. You will not be allowed to choose yourself, so please don't ask. Your goal is to use the lessons learned during the course of the semester to identify and break down the bad science in the movie chosen for you. This includes identifying the specific problems and how or why Hollywood got it wrong. If you like, you can identify places where the science is correct. You are also welcome to make comments that are germane to your own experience and/or background. For example, if you are a sociology major feel free to comment on the societal implications of the science being portrayed; if you are a psychology major, perhaps the portrayal of specific psychoses is incorrect and so on.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Because of the nature of the course, unexcused absences will not be tolerated. **You will not receive attendance points for that day and will not be able to complete and submit an essay; i.e. you miss class, you lose 20 points. You DO NOT have the option of watching the movie yourself and submitting an essay.** Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Should serious illness or some other legitimate reason necessitate your missing class, please notify me as soon as possible concerning the reason for the absence.

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY: Since the class is in the evening, you are welcome to bring food and drinks to consume during the movie. You may also order food in if you like, but please have it delivered prior to the start of class time. When

choosing a food item, be considerate of the rest of the class. Even though you may love stinky cheese, everyone else may not want to smell it. And don't be the chip bag person.

GUESTS: Due to fair use laws, you *may not* bring a guest to class.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines religious holy days as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If the student has a disability that may affect adversely their work in this class, then he or she needs to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how they can best be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. There will be no retroactive accommodations.

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGERS IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES: Any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty. See student code of conduct: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating is a violation of the Honor Code and will not be tolerated. Regulations and responsibilities put forth in the *Student Guidelines 2010-2012(p.32)* and in the *Faculty Handbook* will be followed in the event of academic dishonesty.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Guest Lecturer</u>
Aug 24	First day of class/Intro
Aug 31	Patrick Lewis (Biology)
Sept 7	Justin Williams (Biology)
Sept 14	Joseph Hill (Geology)
Sept 21	Rick Lewis (CJ)
Sept 28	Brian Loft (Math)
Oct 5	Scott Miller (Physics)
Oct 12	Aaron Lynne (Biology)
Oct 19	Hannah Gerber (Education)
Oct 26	Donovan Haines (Chemistry)
Nov 2	Dustin Gross (Chemistry)
Nov 9	Maria Botero Jamarillo (Philosophy)
Nov 16	Jim Harper (Biology)
Nov 23	Thanksgiving
Nov 30	Field Trip – Huntsville Theater