

Instructor: Leo Takahashi, Assistant Professor of Physics

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Weekly Schedule for Fall 2010

Per.	ΔT	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	8:00-8:50					
2	9:00-9:50		Tuesday Office Hours		Thursday Office Hours	
3	10:00-10:50	STS 101H 14 MBB	by Appointment	STS 101H 14 MBB	by Appointment	STS 101H 14 MBB
4	11:00-11:50	office hour 107 SUB	or You can	office hour 107 SUB	or You can just	office hour 107 SUB
5	12:00-12:50		just drop in.		drop in.	
6	1:00-1:50				PHYS 250 14 MBB	
7	2:00-2:50	PHYS 250 13 MBB		PHYS 250 13 MBB	PHYS 250 14 MBB	PHYS 250 13 MBB
8	3:00-3:50	PHYS 211 13 MBB	PHYS 211 14 MBB	PHYS 211 13 MBB		PHYS 211 13 MBB
9	4:00-4:50		PHYS 211 14 MBB			

Books:

- *Science and Human Values* by Jacob. Bronowski,
- *A Certain Ambiguity*, by Gauray Suri & Hartosh Singh Bal
- *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert M. Pirsig,

Other Readings: There will be some short readings on e-reserve, regular library reserve, or found on web pages or files linked to our ANGEL Lessons web page. These will include, but are not restricted to, writings by The National Academy of Sciences, Alfred R. Wallace, Carl Sagan, Richard P. Feynman, and the poet Pattiann Rogers.

Description: The purpose of this course is to explore the effects of science and technology on modern society.

Format: The usual activity in class will be discussion. There will be occasional special activities such as films and guest speakers. The assigned readings, films, and the ideas of guest speakers will be the subjects of the discussions.

The goal of the discussions will be the understanding of the topic and not just the airing of your opinions. To aid in the discussions each student (except for that day's discussion leader, see below) is required to bring to each discussion a 3" by 5" note card on which is written his or her "reaction" to the assigned reading. These are to be turned in to the instructor at the beginning of the class period. He will use them to help the discussion along and to later check attendance. A "reaction" may be

anything from a question about something in the reading to a personal statement of agreement or disagreement with the author's ideas.

Readings/Response Papers: You will occasionally be asked to write a formal critique of an assigned reading, which will be used as a starting point for the class discussion. A formal critique is a one- or two-page paper which includes (but is not confined to) a statement of your understanding of the author's main point and an evaluation of the author's success in making that point; **this paper is not to be a summary of the reading.**

You are to bring two copies of the paper to class on the day it is due. One you will hand in to the instructor at the start of the class; the other copy is for you to read to the class. After the reading **you are to lead the class discussion**; you should be prepared to defend what you have written.

In-Class Writing: There will be some essay exams to be written in class.

Final Exam: At least a week before the scheduled final exam you will be given two or three essay topics from which the final exam will be randomly chosen by the instructor at the time of the exam. You will be required to write the chosen essay during the assigned final exam period during the final exam week. You are allowed to bring copies of any of the assigned readings, indexed and annotated as you wish, to use as you write the essay; however you are not allowed to bring or use any separate notes or pre-written essays.

Attendance Policy: Class discussion is vital to the success of the course and you cannot contribute unless you attend. **If you miss a class meeting, your contribution will be a formal paper (one or two pages) on the subject of that day's discussion.** The paper is due within a week of the student's return to class or by the last class meeting before the final exam, whichever comes first. These papers may be submitted as e-mail Word document attachments.

Assignment Preparation Policy: All written work must be written in proper English in order to be eligible for full credit (that is, proper English is a necessary but not sufficient condition for full credit). This requirement is strictly enforced in the evaluation of the formal critiques.

Class Discussion Policy: Class discussion will be evaluated in terms of quality and (to a lesser extent) quantity; this is of necessity a subjective evaluation, based on the instructor's response to what you say and how you say it. **Agreement with the instructor's opinions during discussion is most emphatically not a requirement**; well-reasoned and clearly presented disagreements are valued highly. Courtesy is also highly valued in discussion; be willing to listen before you disagree and make sure when you attack opinions and positions you do not attack people.

Classroom Culture: In order to maintain an environment that encourages focused discussion, please turn off all cell phones, pagers, radios, and head phones and refrain from using any tobacco products while in the classroom.

Respect for all people must be shown by both words and actions while in the classroom. You are expected to use moderate language while in the classroom even when you violently disagree with an idea (e.g. this would be acceptable: "I find Mr. Takahashi's ideas about Information Technology's place in the curriculum to be completely without merit. His words indicate a misunderstanding of the fundamental meaning of the word *information*." This would be unacceptable: "*You are an idiot.*")

Grading Policy: Each of the first five activities listed below will have equal value toward your grade, unless number 6 negatively overwhelms everything else.

1. Class participation.
2. Reading response note cards.
3. Formal critiques.
4. In-Class essay exams.
5. Final Exam.
6. The instructor's evaluation of your respect for our classroom culture (0 → 100% of your course grade.)

Disability Policy: Consistent with University policy, any student requesting an accommodation must provide documentation from the Office for Disability Services. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Campus Nurse, Barbara McDanel (Ross Adm bldg, 724-773-3955, BQM5@psu.edu). For additional information, check the university web site: <http://www.lions.psu.edu/ods/>

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to act with civility, personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights and property; and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community. Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another persons' work as one's own, using Internet sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, "ghosting" (taking or having another student take an exam), stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc. Students charged with a breach of academic integrity will receive due process and, if the charge is found valid, academic sanctions may range, depending on the severity of the offense, from F for the assignment to F for the course. The University's statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available at <http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html>