

This course will investigate various treatments of science by literature according to both traditional and contemporary (postmodern) theories within the philosophy of science. According to Jean Francois Lyotard, scientific knowledge has traditionally been legitimated for being either emancipatory, or according to how it assists in the realization of a unified scientific whole. Texts by Ibsen and Glaspell provide an opportunity for investigating the poignancy of the first of these legitimization narratives, while texts by Ursula LeGuin and John Banville will help us evaluate the second legitimization narrative. Finally, we will conclude the semester by questioning whether scientific knowledge is, as Foucault suggests, “linked in a circular relation with systems of power which produce and sustain it, and to effects of power which it induces and which extend it. A regime of truth;” relevant texts to this discussion are Thomas Pynchon’s *The Crying of Lot 49* and Darren Aronofsky’s *Pi*.

### 1. Core Texts:

- John Banville, *Doctor Copernicus*
- Friedrich Durrenmatt, *The Physicists*
- Frayn, Michael. *Copenhagen*
- Susan Glaspell, *The Verge* (available on NTULearn)
- Henrik Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People* (available on NTULearn)
- Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee. *Inherit the Wind*
- LeGuin, Ursula. *The Dispossessed*.
- Pynchon, Thomas. *The Crying of Lot 49*
- Shelagh Stephenson, *An Experiment with an Air Pump*
- All other secondary readings are available on NTULearn

### 2. Films:

(held in the library and to be screened in class)

*Pi*, Darren Aronofsky

### Method of Instruction

Lectures : 1 hour per week

Tutorials : 2 hours per week

### Course Assessment

Continuous Assessment : 50 %

Final Examination : 50 %

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100%

A.

**Proposal for the short Essay:** This 400 word proposal will make the case that the subject you are interested in is worthy of an essay. Those failing to turn this assignment in on time will lose a letter grade off their final essay.

**Presentation of Academic Article:** For this presentation you will discuss the research given in an academic article relevant to the content of your final essay. You will consider the argument of the essay, present the essay's evidence, and formulate a response. Ideally, you will discuss the relevance of the essay to your own final essay.

**Final Essay:** This 2000 word essay (lower limit) must defend an original thesis about one of the works read in class (excluding *Inherit the Wind*) – and do so by reflecting on secondary material about the play and/or the author of the play. You must use at least 3 secondary sources. (40% of final grade).

**B. The Final Examination** will consist of two essays worth equal points.

**\*\*Warning\*\* Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure of the course.**

**Moreover, use of GAI assistance is not permitted in the development or generation of any assignments for this course without the express written consent of the course coordinator.**

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#### Proposed Lecture Schedule

Week No.	Topics	Readings
Week 1 - Jan 19	Course Introduction	
Week 2 – Jan 26	Science as Progress	Henrik Ibsen, <i>An Enemy of the People</i> ; Leo Marx, “Does Improved Technology Mean Progress”
Week 3 – Feb 2	Science and the Humanities	Susan Glaspell, <i>The Verge</i> ; C. P. Snow, “The Two Cultures”
Week 4 – Feb 9	Science and Religion	Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee. <i>Inherit the Wind</i>

<b>Week No.</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Week 5 – Feb 16</b>	<b>Scientific Method</b>	LeGuin, Ursula. <i>The Dispossessed</i> ; Popper, “Conjectural Knowledge”
<b>Week 6 – Feb 23</b>	<b>The Scientist as Heroic Figure</b>	John Banville, <i>Doctor Copernicus</i> ; Thomas Kuhn, “The Function of Dogma”
<b>Week 7 – March 1</b>	<b>Science and Historiography</b>	John Banville, <i>Doctor Copernicus</i> continued;
<b>Week 8 – March 8</b>	<i>Recess</i>	
<b>Week 9 – March 15</b>	<b>Research Paper interviews – no class</b>	
<b>Week 10 – March 22</b>	<b>Science and Madness</b>	Friedrich Durrenmatt, <i>The Physicists</i> Excerpt from <i>The Postmodern Condition</i> (Part 2)
<b>Week 11 – March 29</b>	<b>Science and Postmodern Literature</b>	Pynchon, Thomas. <i>The Crying of Lot 49</i> Lyotard,
<b>Week 12 – April 5</b>	<b>Science and Power</b>	<i>Pi</i> , Darren Aronofsky Foucault, From “Truth and Power”
<b>Week 13 – April 12</b>	<b>Postmodern Science and Literature</b>	Frayn, Michael, <i>Copenhagen</i> ; Gross and Levitt, “The Academic Left and Science”
<b>Week 14 – April 19</b>	<b>Science and Ethics</b>	Shelagh Stephenson, <i>An Experiment with an Air Pump</i>