

The History of Popular Science: Pop Science and Popularizations of Science

William Clark / wiclark@ucsd.edu / Lecture: Tuesday-Thursday 2-3:20 PM, WLH 2111
Office: 2302 HSS, East Wing / Office Hours: Tues+Thurs 12-1 & 6:30-7:30 P.M.

Grading: In-Class Exam 1 = 10% + In-Class Exam 2 = 20% + Take-Home Essay = 20% + Final = 50%.

The final is an in-class exam + a take-home essay.

Most readings and videos are on the class website (<http://webctweb.ucsd.edu>) in a folder for the relevant lecture.

Readings (selected pages as pdfs on the class website)

Philip Appleman, ed., *Darwin* ... (2001).

David Basalla, "Pop Science: The Depiction of Science in Popular Culture" (1976).

Bruce Baum, *The Rise and Fall of the Caucasian Race* ... (2006).

Robert Darnton, *Mesmerism and the End of the Enlightenment in France* (1968).

Patricia Fara, *An Entertainment for Angels: Electricity in the Enlightenment* (2002).

Benjamin Franklin et al., *Report on Animal Magnetism* (1784).

Thomas Goodhue, *Curious Bones: Mary Anning and the Origins of Paleontology* (2002).

Michael Hagner, "Enlightened Monsters" (1999).

Roslynn Haynes, *From Faust to Strangelove: Representations of the Scientist in Western Literature* (1994).

Craig McCracken et al., *The Powerpuff Girls Movie: Mojo Jojo, My Story* (2002).

Maureen McNeil, "Newton as a National Hero" (1988).

Anton Mesmer, *Dissertation on the Discovery of Animal Magnetism* (1779).

Steve Paulson, "Jane Goodall's Animal Planet," *Salon* (2009)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* ... (1831)

Video Sources (as mp4s on the class website)

30 Years of National Geographic: Leakey, Goodall, Fossey, Galdikas (1996).

A Is for Atom (1952/53).

Birth of the Universe (2006).

Cartman Gets an Anal Probe (1997).

Charles Darwin, Evolution's Voice (2005).

Computers (2000).

Creation of the Computer: Thinking Machines (1995).

Death of the Universe (2007).

Dinosaur Secrets Revealed (2002).

Duck and Cover (1951).

The Day After Trinity: J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb (1981).

Einstein (1979).

Hackers: Outlaws and Angels (2002).

Jane Goodall: Reason for Hope (1999).

Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial (2007).

Madame Curie (1943).

Miss Goodall and the Wild Chimpanzees (1965).

Operation Cue (1955).

Secret History of Hacking (2002).

The Trials of J. Robert Oppenheimer (2009).

UFO Files – UFOs Then & Now: Cause for Alarm (2004).

UFO Files – UFOs Then & Now: Nightmare (2004).

Lectures: Dates & Topics**SEPTEMBER**23 (01) Introduction: Popular Science, Pop Science, Popularization of Science**Read:** Basalla, "Pop Science." **Skim Read:** Haynes, *From Faust...*, introduction+ chaps. 1-3.28 (02) The Enlightenment I: The Origins of Popular Science**Read:** Haynes, *From Faust...*, introduction + chap. 4. **Optional:** McNeil, "Newton as National Hero."30 (03) The Enlightenment II: Electricity & Popular Culture**Read:** Haynes, *From Faust...*, introduction + chap. 5. **Skim Read:** Fara, *An Entertainment ...*, pp. 1-98.**OCTOBER**05 (04) The Enlightenment III: The Vogue of Mesmerism + **In-Class Exam 1****Read:** Darnton, *Mesmerism...*, pp. 1-81.07 (05) Humans & Monsters I: Frankenstein, Grave-Robbery, & Medical Horrors**Read:** Shelley, *Frankenstein ...*, pp. 10-25 (Bk. 1, chaps.1-5); Haynes, *From Faust...*, chaps. 6-7.12 (06) Humans & Monsters II: Anthropology, Teratology, Racism**Read:** Baum, *Rise & Fall ...*, chap. 2. **Optionally Read:** Hagner, "Enlightened Monsters."14 (07) Humans & Monsters III: The Rise & Fall of the Dinosaurs**Read:** Goodhue, *Curious Bones*. **Watch:** *Dinosaur Secrets Revealed* (2002) 1a.19 (08) Evolution & Creationism I: Darwin & His Critics + **In-Class Exam 2****Watch:** *Charles Darwin, Evolution's Voice*. **Read:** Appleman, *Darwin ...*, pp. 33-45, 265-75, 389-95.21 (09) Science Wizards I: Verne & Wells / Edison & Tesla**Read:** Haynes, *From Faust...*, chaps. 8-11. **Optionally Read:** Evans, *Jules Verne*.26 (10) Science Wizards II: Marie Curie & Albert Einstein**Watch:** *Madame Curie* (1943). **Highly Suggested Watch:** *Einstein* (1979).28 (11) The Bomb I: "The Fathers" – Oppenheimer & Teller**Watch:** *The Day After Trinity* (1981). **Optionally Watch:** *The Trials of Oppenheimer* (2009).**November**02 (12) The Bomb II: Nuclear Fear**Watch:** *Duck and Cover* (1951) + *A Is for Atom* (1952/53) + *Operation Cue* (1955).04 (13) Cosmology & Aliens I: Cosmic Origins & Ends**Watch:** *Birth of the Universe* (2006) + *Death of the Universe* (2007).09 (14) Cosmology & Aliens II: UFOs & the ET Hypothesis**Watch:** *UFO Files: Cause for Alarm* + *UFO Files: Nightmare* (2004) + *Cartman Gets an Anal Probe* (1997).16 (15) Evolution & Creationism II: Catastrophes, Dinosaurs, Intelligent Design + **Take-Home Essay Due at 2 PM****Watch:** *Judgment Day ...* (2007). **Highly Suggested Watch:** *Dinosaur Secrets Revealed* 1-2 (2002).**Optionally Read:** Appleman, *Darwin ...*, pp. 420-25, 527-623.18 (16) Primateology I: Monkeys & Apes / Leakey & His Angels**Watch:** *30 Years National Geographic: Leakey* + ... *Goodall* +... *Fossey* +... *Galdikas* (1996).

23 (17) Primateology II: Jane Goodall

Watch: *Miss Goodall & the Wild Chimpanzees* (1965) + *Jane Goodall: Reason for Hope* (1999).

Read: Paulson, “Jane Goodall’s Animal Planet.”

30 (18) Computers: Thinking Machines & the Gremlins

Watch: *Secret History of Hacking* (2002) + *Creation of the Computer* (1995) or *Computers* (2000).

December

02 (19) Wrap Up: Museums & Media / Monsters & Catastrophes

09 Take-Home Essay Due at 3 PM + In-Class Final Exam 3-6 PM