

HISC 131: Science, Technology and Law
Spring 2018
Prof. Tal Golan tgolan@ucsd.edu

Modern society has become dependent on science and technology. Exploring various case studies, from scientific evidence such as fingerprints and lie-detectors, to technological feats such as biotech and internet, we will examine how science, technology and law interact to maintain progress, rationality and social order in society.

Time and location: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12.30-13.50 Peterson 103

Office hours: Thursdays 12.00-13.00, or by appointment. H&SS bldg room 4044

Week 1

Apr 3 Introduction

Apr 5 History

Goldberg, Steven, *Culture Clash: Law and Science in America*, 1-25.

Week 2

Apr 10 What Makes Evidence Scientific? The case of fingerprints

Simon Cole, "What Counts for Identity? The Historical Origins of the Methodology of latent Fingerprint identification," *Science in Context* (1999) 12:139-172

Apr 12 What Makes Evidence Unscientific? The case of the lie detector

Tal Golan, *Laws of Man and Laws of Nature*, 211-253.

Week 3

Apr 17 Differentiating between good and bad science

US Supreme Court Opinion in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*

Apr 19 Visual Evidence: what you see is what you get?

Tal Golan, "Visual Images in the Courtroom: a Historical Perspective," *Parallax* (2008) 14 (4): 77-89.

Week 4

Apr 24 Insanity Defense

Reading TBA (check on the website)

Apr 26 Questions of life and Death: Abortion and Euthanasia

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/senate-vote-block-abortion-funding-affects-planned-parenthood/>

Week 5

May 1 Private law: Tort

Peter H. Schuck, *Agent Orange on Trial*, 1-40

May 3 Public law: Regulation

Sheila Jasanoff, *Science at the Bar*, 69-92

Week 6

May 8 Midterm Exam

Bring a blue exam notebook

May 10 Technology and Labor

Reading: <http://uberlawsuit.com/>

Week 7

May 15 Patents

Reading TBA (check on the website)

May 17 Pharmaceutical society

Reading TBA (check on the website)

Week 8

May 22 Intelligent Design and Evolution

H.Allen Orr, Devolution: Why intelligent design isn't, *New Yorker*, Mar 30, 2006.

May 24 Genetic Engineering

Reading TBA (check on the website)

Week 9

May 29 Internet: Net neutrality

Reading TBA

May 31 Internet: Privacy

Reading TBA

Week 10

Jun 5 Global Warming I

Jun 7 Global Warming II

Reading TBA (check on the website)

Jun 13, 10 a.m. Deadline: Home test

Course Policies

All readings will be posted on line @TritonEd.

- All submitted work must be your own.
- Weekly commentaries on the assigned readings
 - The students will comment on the assigned readings before each meeting.
 - Commentaries:
 1. Must be entered by 12 p.m., day of class.
 2. Should be short, not longer than half a page.
 3. Will be checked but not graded.
 4. Will not be accepted past the deadline
 5. If you fail to enter three or more commentaries, you lose the commentary's grade contribution.

Grading

- **Weekly commentaries** %10
- **Mid-term exam** 40%
- **Final paper** 40%
- **Two quizzes** 5% each

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