

Selected Regional Areas (A)

Sociology and Anthropology 365

Section: D100

Term: 2010 Spring

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Discussion Topics: This course will be held during the day at the Vancouver Harbour Centre Campus.

Many of us are taught that science is universal and "culture-free." We are told that it doesn't matter who creates and uses science, that its methods allow anyone in any place to know what is and what is not scientifically true. This course challenges those precepts, by looking at science as a cultural formation. We will examine the relationship of place, gender and history in questions of what science has been, is now, and will be in the future. Specifically, we will look at the question of science in Asia, both historically and in the contemporary period. We will ask what might an "Asian Science" look like? How does a post-colonial context change the way that science is imagined and practiced? When did "science" emerge, and what makes it similar or different from other forms of knowledge? This class will examine academic and popular articles, as well as films and web clips to push us to look at current debates about science in the news, such as questions about HIV/AIDS testing, genetic cloning and stem-cell research. We will explore some of the broader issues in science studies scholarship, exploring the gendered dynamics in scientific labor and how scientists' assumptions about reality shape their interests and experiments. The course will look at how physicists in Japan and the US approach their work and carry out their research, as well as ongoing debates about the role of Asia in questions about "Universal" or "Western" science. Students will write a research paper on a topic of their choice. The class will be conducted as an intensive seminar, with active student participation.

Grading: (1) Seminar Participation 20%
(2) Seminar Facilitation 20%
(3) Mid-term: 20%
(4) Term Paper 40%

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).

Required Texts: Joseph Needham, Science in Traditional China. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1990 or later edition

Sharon Trawick, Beamtimes and Lifetimes: The World of High Energy Physicists. Harvard University Press. 1992.

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: A collection of articles will be available in the Bennett Library.

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 101 or 150 or 201.

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Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFUs policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>

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