

POLI 104P Science, Technology, and the Law

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50 am, York Bldg., Rm. 4080A
Spring Quarter 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Hon. Michael Orfield (Ret.) (UCSD, BA Biology '72, Revelle)
Office Hours: After class, nearby coffee houses, cafeteria, etc. (email requests)
Email: orfield.michael@gmail.com; (cell) 858-354-3616
Prerequisites: Typically upper division status, though exceptions are made
TritonEd: Primary means of communication.

OVERVIEW: Science advances exponentially. The law is slower to follow. The third branch of government must prepare for the legal battles that are sure to be created by current and future scientific and technological advances. This course will require the students to think outside the box, to imagine a world that could soon be their reality. From driverless cars, to genetic engineering, to artificial intelligence and the meaning of life itself! All of science and technology is on the table; all aspects of the law are fair game. 'Should we go there?' will be as important a question as 'what will we find if we go?' This class is about discovery, exploration, and collaboration with peers.

EXPECTATIONS: Students are expected to attend all classes and participate. There will be group projects in class and opportunities for brief reports on interesting subjects of the day. Students are encouraged to create an atmosphere of respect and tolerance for varying views, as some subjects may be controversial.

GRADING: Students will be graded on a midterm project (e.g. oral presentation or debate), a final project (e.g. oral presentation, debate, paper), in class presentations and attendance. The midterm will be worth 25 points, the final 55 points, and attendance 20 points. Extra credit (up to 10 points) can be obtained by giving a 5 minute in-class presentation, conducted once a week, typically on Friday, called "Science/Technology in the News". **Students will be required to bring their clicker to all classes for audience participation polling.**

My grading rubric is as follows:

89.5 and above is an A
79.5 and above is a B
69.5 and above is a C
59.5 and above is a D
Below 59.5 is an F

STRUCTURE: This is a social science class (political science, pre-law for example) that explores issues housed in natural science courses (such as biology, engineering, and medicine). The course will use hypotheticals, much like bar exam questions, to explore the intersection of science and the law. Classes will be a combination of lecture, audience participation, and the Socratic method. Some time each week will be spent learning the law that may attend a certain area of science and technology (like torts, constitutional law, contracts).

ATTENDANCE: Participation is vital to the overall effectiveness of the class. Unexcused absences detract from the class dynamics and will be taken into account in grading student performance. Reduction in points can result by having more than 3 unexcused absences. If you cannot make a class, please advise me in person or by email. Excused absences include health issues and family emergencies. Unexcused absences include over-sleeping and forgetfulness. Please let me know of any special needs or circumstances that might affect performance, as I will always work with the student to accommodate.

OUTSIDE READING SUGGESTIONS:

Jay M. Feinman, *Law 101- Everything You Need to Know About American Law* (Oxford University Press, Publisher)

Sheila Jasanoff, *Science at the Bar* (Harvard University Press, Publisher)

Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (Broadway Books, Publisher)

Henrietta Lacks

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrietta_Lacks

Michael Stokes Paulsen and Luke Paulsen, *The Constitution- An Introduction* (Basic Books, Publisher)

Cass R. Sunstein, *The World According to Star Wars* (HarperCollins, Publisher)

Roe v Wade, United States Supreme Court

<http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/410/113.html>

Orfield, Michael, *Weather Genesis and Weather Neutralization: A New Approach to Weather Modification* (California Western International Law Journal, Volume 6, no. 2 (1976))