

Science, Technology and the Law (POLI 104P)

Syllabus (Spring Quarter, 2021)

INSTRUCTOR: Hon. Michael Orfield (Ret.)

(UCSD, BA Biology '72, Revelle) (California Western School of Law, JD '77)

Office Hours: Email a request and we will set up a Zoom meeting.

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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 future world that could soon be their reality. From driverless cars, to genetic engineering, to artificial intelligence, to 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 just as important a question as 'What will we find if we get there?' This class is about discovery, exploration and collaboration with peers.

EXPECTATIONS: Students are expected to stay current on the information discussed in class, through online attendance or through reviewing recorded classes. Students are expected to participate in Group discussions when they are able to attend the live online classes. Students are encouraged to create an atmosphere of respect and tolerance for varying views, as some subjects may be controversial. It is the responsibility of each student to stay current on all Announcements and Assignments set out in Canvas.

GRADING: Students will be graded on three written papers spaced approximately 3 weeks apart. Each paper will be a minimum of 1,200 words, a maximum of 1,500.

The class will be graded on a 100-point system, 30 points maximum each for the first two papers and 40 points maximum for the third paper. Extra credit will be given to those who sign up for "Science Thursday" and give a 5-minute overview during weeks 1-10 of some interesting news in the field of Science or Technology. 5 extra points can be earned in this way per quarter.

My Grading Rubric is:

97 to 100 is an A+

94 to <97 is an A

89.5 to <94 is an A-

87 to <89.5 is a B+

84 to <87 is a B

79.5 to <84 is a B-

77 to <79.5 is a C+

74 to <77 is a C

69.5 to <74 is a C-

59.5 to <69.5 is a D

<59.5 is an F

STRUCTURE: This is a social science class (e.g., political science, history, pre-law) that explores issues housed in natural science courses (e.g., genetics, engineering, medicine). The course will use hypotheticals, much like a Bar Exam, to explore the intersection of science/technology and the law. Classes will be a combination of lecture, audience participation, with doses of the Socratic Method employed to move our thinking along. Some time will be spent learning an area of the Law that may be helpful to a discussion of science and technology, such as constitutional law, torts and contracts.

ATTENDANCE: While attendance is not a part of the grade this Quarter, participation is critically important to the vitality of the Online class.

OUTSIDE READING SUGGESTIONS:

There is no mandatory textbook, though some references below may be required.

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 (Links to an external site.)

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> (Links to an external site.)

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

Students with Disabilities

*Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (<https://osd.ucsd.edu/> Links to an external site.). Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department **well in advance** of any exams or assignments. The OSD Liaison for the Department of Political Science is Joanna Peralta; please connect with her via the Virtual Advising Center [Links to an external site.](#) as soon as possible.*

Academic Advising

Students who have questions pertaining to Political Science academic advising are asked to reach out to the Department's Undergraduate Advisor, Natalie Ikker, who can be reached via the Virtual Advising Center [Links to an external site.](#) Academic advising questions often include (but not limited to): add/drop deadlines, course enrollment policies, planning major and minor requirements, quarter-by-quarter plans, department petitions and paperwork, and referrals to campus and student support services.

Inclusive Classroom Statement

My TA and I are fully committed to creating a learning environment that supports diversity of thought, perspectives, experiences, and identities. We urge each of you to contribute your unique perspectives to discussions of course questions, themes, and materials so that we can learn from them, and from each other. If you should ever feel excluded, or unable to fully participate in class for any reason, please let me know, or you may also submit anonymous written feedback to the Department of Political Science's Undergraduate Advisor, Natalie Ikker [Links to an external site.](#) Natalie will bring these anonymous comments to my attention. Additional resources to support equity, diversity, and inclusion in our classroom, and beyond, may be found here: Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

858.822.3542 | diversity@ucsd.edu | <https://diversity.ucsd.edu/> [Links to an external site.](#)

<https://students.ucsd.edu/student-life/diversity/index.html> [Links to an external site.](#)

<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/4400.html>