

University Preparatory Certificate  
for Science and Engineering  
2015 - 2016

**Science and Society**  
**A Short Introduction**

# What is Science and Society?

The sciences affect almost every aspect of our lives: our bodies, daily routines, physical surroundings, self-understanding, intellectual life, economic prospects, and political possibilities.

The Science and Society Module examines the sciences, medicine and technology as integral to society and culture. Through the lecture programme we explore the history, philosophy, and social studies of science and medicine in a social context, with no clear boundary between science and culture.

We consider how society informs science, and science informs society.

# What does Science and Society teach?

- Learning about / researching / analysing the impact of science on contemporary society
- Reflecting on the social responsibility of scientists
- Interpreting and understanding scientific data
- Communicating science issues to a general academic reader

## Aims and objectives:

- Learn to carry out independent research in an academic way
- Draw on existing knowledge to show understanding of the ethical, social, economic, environmental, technological applications of science
- Develop, and be able to express, an informed personal point of view on issues concerning science and technology, taking into account their relationship with society
- Apply the rules of Academic English conventions in the writing up of a research project

## Course Structure

- **Lecture Series** ( In Terms 1 & 2) : UPCSE lecturers and guest lecturers from UCL departments, Tuesday 11-12
- **Research Skills**: Tuesday 12-1
- **Seminar Discussion Group**: Thursday 11-12 OR 12-1pm (Term 1)



# Lectures

- What does the lecture series involve?
- Terms 1 and 2: students attend 50-minute lectures relating to science topics

## Three stages:

- Students given background reading before lectures
- During lectures students take notes on relevant points
- In class, students answer questions relating to the lecture and discuss issues arising from the topic, developing ability to respond critically

## Lectures (2): What is the purpose?

- 1. To increase awareness of current academic issues, research and methodology
- 2. To provide relevant inter-disciplinary knowledge and a broader context for study
- 3. To provide ideas you can develop in the Science and Society Research Project
- 4. To improve listening and note-taking skills from authentic lectures
- 5. Allow you to identify language and skills used by lecturers, which will be relevant to your own presentations
- 6. To develop and practise debating and seminar skills

## **Lectures (3): Topics for 2015 - 2016 include:**

- History of Science and Society
- Climate Change
- Superbugs
- Astrobiology
- Robotics
- Predicting the Future
- Social Responsibility of Science
- The Honey Bee



## → Emphasis on Research skills:

- Work to deadlines and developing good time management skills
- Develop a project of your own and become an independent learner
- Find and refer to relevant sources
- Avoid plagiarism
- Improve analytical skills
- Develop an argument and present findings in a clear and academic manner
- Being objective and critical

# Assessment structure

Term 1: Referencing & Avoiding Plagiarism Test (10%)

Terms 2 & 3: Project

- Title & Outline
- 1st Draft Sources & Evaluation (10%)
- Poster Presentations (20%)
- Viva (20%)
- Submission of Project: Final Version (40%)

## Some advice:

- Think laterally: what you learn in Academic English and your Science Subject studies you can apply to Science and Society – and vice versa. If in doubt, ASK!
- Engage with lectures and seminars / discussions
- Engage with your topic in a personal, critical manner

# Any Questions?

