

***SocG 234***  
***Intellectual Foundations of the Sociology of Science,  
Technology and Medicine***

Instructor: Charles Thorpe  
Email: cthorpe@ucsd.edu  
Office, SSB 497.  
Office hours: Wednesday, 11.15-12.15; Friday, 11.15-12.15.

***Schedule***

10 weeks of instruction  
Mondays 12-2.50pm  
Location: SSB 101

***Assessment:***

Final essay: 80%  
Class discussion and presentation: 20%

***Essay assignment:***

Write a 20-25 page paper critically evaluating and exploring intersections between at least two of the books read for this course.

*Due: Thursday June 10, 12 noon.*

You should come to see me in the first half of the quarter to discuss ideas for your final paper. You should also submit a title and a one-paragraph (at minimum) outline of your planned paper to me by class on May 10<sup>th</sup> (week 7). I will mark your outline satisfactory or unsatisfactory. I will not accept a final paper unless I have given you a mark of satisfactory for your outline.

***Attendance policy.***

Attendance at seminars is mandatory.  
If you miss more than two seminars during the term, without prior permission or valid reason (medical, or family emergency) you may receive a failing grade for the course.

***Class discussion.***

You are expected to read all the texts listed under the topic for each week.  
Each week there will be student presentations on the set readings. Each student (including

auditors) will be expected to present on readings during *four sessions* over the quarter (depending on enrolment). During the first session, there will be the opportunity to sign up for presentations.

During weeks that you present on readings, please hand in a paper outline of your presentation (should be at least 2 double-spaced pages in length).

## ***Readings.***

All readings are books available to purchase from UCSD bookstore.

## ***Readings and Schedule***

*Read all (except any appendices) unless otherwise specified.*

Week 2:

Peter Winch, *The Idea of a Social Science*

Week 3:

Harry Collins, *Gravity's Shadow* – Introduction and Chapters 1-12.

Week 4:

Harry Collins, *Gravity's Shadow*, Chapters 13-27.

Week 5:

Harry Collins and Robert Evans, *Rethinking Expertise*

Week 6:

David Noble, *Forces of Production*, chapters 1-7, 10, and Epilogue.

Week 7:

Nikolas Rose, *The Politics of Life Itself*

Week 8:

Steven Epstein, *Inclusion* (excluding chapters 8 and 9)

Week 9:

Sarah Franklin, *Dolly Mixtures*

Week 10

Stefan Helmreich, *Silicon Second Nature*, Introduction, Chapters 1-3, and Chapter 5.