Course format:

This class will focus on natural and social scientific developments since the 19th century, with a focus on issues as wide-ranging as capitalism, socialism, race, gender, evolution, global climate change and religion. The course will be conducted in a lecture/discussion mode. You are encouraged to raise questions and to participate in class discussions, and to do so in a manner that is respectful of the interest of others.

Make-Up exams will be allowed only in circumstances, in which you had no control (e.g., severe illness).

Regular attendance in this class is mandatory. Students absent on more than three days will lose one letter grade. Students absent on more than five days are subject to being dropped from the class. Be aware of the academic calendar, particularly the last day to drop a class with the grade of “W”.

Required texts:
Chris Hedges -- American Fascists
Carl Sagan -- I Don't Believe in Atheists
Bertrand Russell -- Demon-Haunted World
Why I Am Not a Christian and other essays

Course Requirement:
6-8 page Social Science paper: 30% of your grade
10 minute presentation: 5%
6-8 page Natural Science paper: 30%
10 minute presentation: 5%
In class exam based on Social Science reading: 15%
Take home exam based on Natural Science reading: 15%

Due dates: (natural science papers are due to Dr. Repka, social science papers to Dr. Twicken)
Term papers:
1st paper: March 07;
2nd paper: May 02

Social Science exam: March 14. The exam will be based on your readings in the Hedges books, and will be given at the end of the mid-term presentations.

Natural Science exam: May 16. This will be a take-home exam based on your readings in the Sagan and Russell books, and will be scheduled near the end of the semester.
All papers are to be submitted through the turnitin.com website. Upon enrollment (**Class ID: 5996593; Password: trouble**), you will be prompted to enter your name and to create a personal password. The due dates for the assignments will be set at 12:00 noon on the above date. Late submissions will be penalized.

*Assignments will generally take two weeks to grade.*

**Class Lectures & Reading Schedule**

**Week of:**

January 22-24  Introduction (Tuesday); Development of modern Social Sciences (Thursday)

January 29-31  Development of modern Social Sciences

February 05-07  Development of modern Social Sciences

February 12-14  The science of big numbers

February 19-21  Deep time

February 26-28  Evolution

March 05-07  First papers due; presentations begin

March 12-14  Presentations (Tuesday); Social Science exam (Thursday)

March 19-21  **Spring Break**

March 26-28  Presentations

April 02-04  Energy and the Environment

April 09-11  Global Climate change

April 16-18  Race, gender and sexual orientation

April 23-25  Race, gender and sexual orientation

April/May 30-02  Clean-up; 2nd papers due; presentations begin

May 07-09  Presentations

May 14-16  Presentations

May 21  **Final Day**