

# Schedule of Topics, Readings & Other activities

## Fall 2012

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments & Activities
1	Sept 05	<b>Introduction</b>	
2	Sept 10 Sept 12	<b>Part I: Science in mind</b> Science and the cultural war in the United States	<b>Reading:</b> Atheist as the other <b>Reading:</b> Worse than creationism
3	Sept 17 Sept 19	Skepticism 101: politics or science? The road to the ivory tower	<b>Reading:</b> Climate Skeptics vs. climate deniers
4	Sept 24 Sept 26	Science and religion: non-overlapping magisteria?	<b>Reading:</b> Religion, morality, and evolution <b>Abstract of paper due</b>
5	Oct 01 Oct 03	<b>Part II: Science on the mind</b> The first principle <b>Quiz 1</b>	<b>Reading:</b> Has science killed the soul? Pinker/Dawkins debate
6	Oct 08 Oct 10	The spirit of the age Dualism on trial	<b>Reading:</b> Nothing paranormal about near death experiences
7	Oct 15 Oct 17	La Mettrie's revenge	<b>Reading:</b> Knowing where to scratch
8	Oct 22 Oct 24	Thinking machines Descartes' children	<b>Reading:</b> Computational theory of mind <b>Reading:</b> Childhood origins of adult resistance to science
9	Oct 29 Oct 31	The sum of all fears <b>Quiz 2</b>	<b>Reading:</b> Unweaving the rainbow <b>First draft of paper due</b>
10	Nov 05 Nov 07	<b>Part III: Consequences of the scientific consensus on minds</b> <b>Free minds?</b> Materialism and the question of free will	<b>Reading:</b> self is magic - Wegner
11	Nov 12 Nov 14	<b>Moral minds</b>	<b>Reading:</b> For the law, neuroscience changes everything and nothing

12	Nov 19 Nov 21	Materialism and the origins of morality	
13	Nov 26 Nov 28	<b>Political minds</b> At look at Orwell's problem	<u>Reading:</u> Chomsky on Orwell's problem <u>Reading:</u> Torture at Times
14	Dec 03 Dec 05	<b>Quiz 3</b> <b>Disembodied minds: God</b>	<u>Reading:</u> Sam Harris epilogue
15	Dec 10 Dec 12	Materialism and the God question	<u>Reading:</u> Preface to 'God: the failed hypothesis' <b>Final Paper due</b>