HPSC3107

Science, Ethics and Society

Credit points: 6 Teacher/Coordinator: A/Prof Hans Pols Session: Semester 1
Classes: One 2-hour lecture and two 1-hour tutorials per week. Prerequisites: (HPSC2100 or HPSC2900) and (HPSC2101 or HPSC2901) Prohibitions: HPSC3022, HPSC3024 Assessment: Two 1500-word essays (25% each); one 3000-word essay (40%); participation (10%). Campus: Camperdown/Darlington Delivery Mode: Normal (lecture/lab/tutorial) Day

In this unit of study, we will use approaches from the sociology to investigate the place of science in society, the internal dynamics of science, and ethical issues within science and in relation to its application. The key idea in this course is that science is a social activity that can be studied like other forms of social phenomena and behaviour. There are three components to this Unit of Study: an exploration of the motivations of scientists and how they can be described using cognitive and ethical rules; science and the media; and ethical issues that have become prominent because of recent developments in science.

Textbooks