

SCIF1004 Science and the Cinema

SCIF1004 is a 6 UoC course, which is an expanded version of the 3 UoC GENS1004 (which stopped running in 2011).

General Information

Welcome to SCIF1004 Science and the Cinema! The objectives of the course are for you to learn some introductory level science and to think about how science is portrayed to the general public by the movie industry. The sorts of questions I hope we manage to consider are things like, “Is science portrayed well and accurately?” “Does it matter if the science is distorted if it helps the plot of a movie?” I also hope that you learn a little about DNA analysis, genetically modified organisms, climate change, space exploration and viruses. There is also an element of self-evaluation which should hopefully allow you to develop your critical thinking skills and allow you to start to become more reflective when completing tasks and assignments. But most of all I hope that the course is not only a good learning experience but that you enjoy it too.

SCIF1004 Science and the Cinema is only offered as an online course. There are a few changes based upon MyExperience feedback from last year and I hope you complete this year's MyExperience survey to help me further develop the course.

There are a range of assessment tasks (watching lectures and films before answering online quizzes, a discussion piece based upon what you have learnt in the lectures and then a freeform piece). The assessment tasks and key dates are below.

My recommendation would be to attempt the assessment tasks in order (they are designed to lead you through the course in a logical manner) but you are free to do them in any order.

All deadlines are fixed, a change in deadline will only be given in extenuating circumstances and any special considerations must go through the standard UNSW procedures. Note, you can submit assessment items before the deadline.

Please note feedback on assessments will not be given until after the deadline for submission has passed, and for the longer assessment tasks please allow sufficient time for your work to be assessed before contacting the coordinator for feedback. There is further information on how you are assessed in the associated assessment document, please read this before contacting the coordinator.

Key dates:

Course dates – **Monday 31st May – Friday 6th August** (distance learning; internet access and some time required)

Assessment Tasks

Please note, additional information about each task including marking rubrics (where applicable) can be found on the Moodle page.

1) Pre-recorded lectures and Films - Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These are worth 10% of the total course mark.• Each lecture covers a different topic and there are associated films that you should watch after the lecture.	Key dates: Watch the lectures and films before completing the quizzes: 1 quiz a week, first one due Friday 4th June, subsequent ones due each Friday.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each quiz can only be attempted once, they are there to ‘check’ that you have watched the lectures/films and understood the lecture material.• Once the deadline has passed the results will be released.	
2) Discussion piece <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is worth 40% of the course.• You write a piece on how a science/scientific theme has been portrayed in film; has it been shown as a force for good, a cautionary tale or a bit of both...?• You may use one of the films from the course or another of your own choosing.• The piece is to be 1000 (900-1100) words.	Key dates: Submission of assignment: <i>Friday 2nd July</i>
3) Free-form piece <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is worth 50% of the course.• You submit a piece of work under the general theme/title of ‘Science and the Cinema’.• This assignment is very open and you can submit a wide variety of different pieces.	Key dates: Submission of assignment: <i>Friday 30th July</i>

Any issues or concerns, contact the course coordinator:

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