Senior Seminar (LB-492 4 credits)
Summer 2017

ARGUMENTS AND EVIDENCE IN PARIS
Examining Controversies in Science avec une Perspective Internationale
Instructors: Profs: Douglas B. Luckie and Amanda G. Seguin
Meeting times: MTWTh 3:00-4:30pm. Location: Paris, France.

Overview
This course is designed to engage you in critically examining both historical and emerging controversial science issues in society. The class will include discussions, debates, oral reports, group projects and reviews of current research literature. You will learn to critique claims in science and the science-related media and explore how the representations of scientific ideas and findings vary.

Learning Goals You should strive to develop skills to be a scholarly scientific thinker.
-- be able to recount historical stories and how they relate to modern topics. The feuds about Harvey, Bernard, Pasteur, Franklin, Wilkins, Watson, Crick, Gallo and Montagnier et al.
--gain skills to interpret the scientific content in a diverse range of literature/news/media and evaluate the supporting evidence (your mantra "what is the argument and where is the evidence?")
--gain experience communicating ideas accurately, appropriately, clearly and persuasively. Get practice writing, speaking and disseminating ideas via film to communicate your thoughts.

Senior Thesis project You should demonstrate both science and HPS scholarly thought.
You will work to either: (a) trace and "debunk" a controversial science and societal story backwards from its representation in the popular media to its original scientific findings in the field, and/or (b) pursue a “30 Days” experimental approach, as developed by filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, where you commit to experience a life or lifestyle very different than your own and use that process to test a hypothesis. You will select a story/topic, study the facts, interview experts/public and ultimately disseminate your findings through popular media, film.

You will use a smartphone (iOS, Android etc) as a camera to produce a short film to inform your audience. Your film can be traditional or 360VR video formats. Possible stories could relate to: the gay gene, Obamacare, racism, vaccinations & autism, food stamp fraud, the origin of life, intelligent design, mercury pollution, cold fusion, or tumors from phones etc.

Textbook:
Great Feuds in Medicine by Hal Hellman
Amazon.com Price: $16.95 new (~$2.00 used/digital)
Paper or digital- 256 pages (February 1, 2001)
ISBN-10: 0471208337
What will you do?

1. **GROUP WORK**: You will join a summer-long documentary team in Paris that focuses on one story and does research. Your team will identify additional readings, storyboard your film plan, and do presentations as your thesis project progresses. Your team will ultimately produce a movie that address issues like: the original findings, how the public dissemination differed, what was controversial, what the expert(s) said and what the documentary you conclude.

You will use smartphones as cameras to produce a thesis film and upload it to a website which incorporates the film and additional material. The film can be traditional or 360vr format. While each group member will be expected to learn and participate in all roles, as well as everyone becomes a digital editor in the final weeks, you will have one as your primary job. **NOTE: At least 90% of your final thesis film should be comprised of still imagery (aka Ken Burns style).**

Your group will present your final video elements at the end of July in Paris and later your finished documentary film will be submitted to the East Lansing Film Festival (http://www.elff.com/).

Three person group Roles:
1. **Director**: 1° responsibility leading the planning/storyboard/organizing for project.
2. **Tech Guru**: 1° responsibility is website, sound capture, digital editing of the film.
3. **Cinematographer**: 1° responsibility is camera (photography) and digital editing of film.

Four person group Roles:
1. **Director**: 1° responsibility is leading the planning/storyboard/organizing for project.
2. **Digital Editor**: 1° responsibility is sound (sound capture) and digital editing of the film.
3. **Cinematographer**: 1° responsibility is camera (photography) and digital editing of film.
4. **Tech Guru**: 1° responsibility is website & wifi/computer/ware/tech problems for project.

2. **INDIVIDUAL WORK**: Readings from the Feuds book and other sources will serve to frame history and controversy in the sciences. You will read, write, take quizzes and present findings to the class. You will participate in discussions, keeping a journal that includes events about your own personal experiences and your group’s progress, share journal readings and complete an interview.

**Course assignments:**
In Paris your learning/performance will be assessed by:
- **One (gPSA) Perec public service announcement** - Individual 60 second video en français.
- **One (talk) oral presentations** - Concerning stage and status of group project.
- **Keeping a journal** - Concerning both personal and group project events/experiences.
- **Quizzes on readings** - There will be quizzes on assigned readings in class.
- **Attendance/Participation** - Participation is a significant part of this class.
- **Group documentary film (and website)** - Group thesis “videography.”
- **Thesis Interview** - Concerning knowledge of media and topics discussed in project.

*Films will not be graded by Luckie and Seguin, but instead by a panel of external experts (3 Profs at LBC) using the LBC Universal Communications Rubric.

**Components of final grade:**
gPSA=10%, journal=10%, Interview=10%, Presentation=15%, Quizzes=15%, Attendance & Participation= 15%, Documentary Project= 25%
Tentative Schedule

• Week 0: Orientation (Prof. Luckie)
  Wednesday (June 28): Arrival Day, LB492 meets@Pont Neuf 3-4pm. Start Perec gPSAs.
  Assignment for Thursday: Georges Perec & images/experience making gPSAs en français.
  Thursday (June 29): ACCENT Orientation Session, LB492 meets@Louvre 2-4pm.
  Assignment for Friday: Georges Perec & images/experience making gPSAs en français.

  Friday (June 30): Review completed gPSAs, build rubric for grading presentations.
  Assignment for Monday: Prepare for USA Presentations

• Week 1: Introduction (Prof. Luckie)
  Monday (July 3*): Reports on USA elements of Documentary & website (show website with
  video clips built from still photos with narration etc, Tech Gurus are presenters and graded).
  Reading assignment for Wednesday: Chapter 1 Feuds Harvey
  Tuesday (July 4): STUDIO DAY (groups can meet with Prof individually)
  Wednesday (July 5): Quiz on reading, “This is ME, my IDEA exercise” Constructive
  Controversy with Feuds Reading.
  Thursday (July 6*): Group Storyboard Presentations Today (storyboard plan and treatment
  details with planned scenes and dialogue for film, Directors are presenters and graded).
  Reading assignment for Monday: Chapter 4 Feuds Bernard

• Week 2: Application (Prof. Luckie & Prof. Seguin)
  Monday (July 10*): Quiz on reading, Shotgun Discussion with Feuds Reading.
  Reading assignment for Friday: Chapter 5 Feuds Pasteur
  Wednesday (July 12*): Progress Reports on Paris elements of Documentary (show
  stills/video). (Cinematographers are presenters and graded for this Presentation)
  Thursday (July 13): Quiz on reading, Constructive Controversy with Feuds Readings.

  Attention! Bastille Day est une fête nationale, donc pas de classe (no senior seminar class meeting) 14 Juillet

• Week 3: Extra Effort (Prof. Seguin)
  Monday (July 17*): Readings from journals, poetry, may meet at field site.
  Reading assignment for Thursday: Ch. 9 Great Feuds Franklin v. Wilkins
  Tuesday (July 18): STUDIO DAY (groups meet with Prof individually at café 2-4pm)
  Wednesday (July 19): Readings from Judgment, journals, poetry, may meet at field site.
  Thursday (July 20*): Quiz on reading, Constructive Controversy with Feuds Reading.
  Reading assignment for Monday: Ch. 10 Great Feuds Gallo/Montagnier & AIDS

• Week 4: Resolution (Prof. Seguin) —Attention! Le Tour de France arrivera à Paris dimanche 23 Juillet
  Monday (July 24): Shotgun Discussion of Feuds reading.
  Tuesday (July 25) STUDIO DAY
  Wednesday (July 26*): Final Film and website Presentation (show final video).
  Thursday (July 27*): Final Film and website Presentation (show final video).
  (Digital Editors are the presenters and graded for the final project Presentation)

* Unless told otherwise, assume that on days with asterisks we shall meet at a classroom in the ACCENT building.