Overview
This course is designed to engage you in critically examining emerging controversial biological issues in society. The course will include discussions, debates, oral reports, group projects and reviews of current research literature. The purposes of this class are to enhance your understanding of science and scientific research and to explore how the public receives information and reaches an understanding of science. You will learn to critique cause/effect claims in science and the science-related popular media and explore how the representations of scientific ideas and findings vary.

You will work individually as well as in research groups that trace and ‘debunk’ a controversial science ‘story’ backwards from its representation in the popular media to its original scientific findings in the field. You will form documentary teams that select a story, research the facts, interview the public & experts and ultimately disseminate your own findings through popular media, film, web and DVD. Your short film may be a documentary, a public service announcement or commercial(s) and it will be disseminated on a website and at a film festival. Possible stories could relate to: Stem Cell Research, Human Cloning, Genetic Testing, The Human Genome Project, The Ozone Layer, The Origin of Life, or The Theory of Evolution.

General Course info:
Instructor: Douglas B. Luckie, Ph.D.
Meeting time: Tuesday & Thursday 3:00-4:50pm, Rooms C-1 & C-1A Holmes Hall
Website: http://www.msu.edu/course/lbs/492/luckie (surf.to/492)
Prerequisites: LBS 145 or equivalent
Office hours: By Appointment, W-29 Holmes Hall/2100 BPS, 353-4606/355-6475x1311

Textbook: Great Feuds in Science:
Ten of the Liveliest Disputes Ever
by Hal Hellman
Amazon.com Price: $12.76
Paperback - 256 pages 1 edition (August 20, 1999)
What will students do?

1. GROUP WORK: You will join a semester long documentary team that focuses on one story and does tracing research. The team will first find one media report (like a story in Newsweek) that you'd like to “debunk.” The your team will identify additional readings, storyboard their filming plan and do presentations as their research project progresses. Your documentary team will produce a website with narratives and mini-movie(s) that present the issue, the original findings, how the public dissemination differed, what was controversial, what the public/expert(s) said and what the 'documentary group' concludes. Groups will present their finished documentary film and website to the class at the end of the semester. Each group will also submit their documentary film to the East Lansing Film Festival (http://www.elff.com; deadline December 2004. Festival occurs in March 2005).

Groups:
The core groups will each produce a film/DVD and a website which incorporates that film. While each group member will be expected to learn and participate in all roles, you will have one as your primary job:
1. **Web-DVD Guru:** 1° responsibility is the creation of the website and DVD.
2. **Digital Editor:** 1° responsibility is digital editing of the video in 'iMovie.'
3. **Cinematographer:** 1° responsibility is the camera and photography of film.
4. **Director-Storyboarder:** 1° responsibility is the planning and storyboard for the film

2. INDIVIDUAL WORK: You will write, read, be quizzed on readings and present findings to the class. Readings from various sources will serve to frame controversy in the sciences and media. You will participate in discussions, formal debates and constructive controversies and generate a public service announcement film. Your senior thesis project will be to write an individual paper concerning the tracing, analyzing and “debunk”ing of the particular controversial biological issue your film group selected.

Course assignments:
In this class your learning/performance will be assessed by:
• **One oral presentation** -Concerning stage and status of group project.
• **One written paper** -Individual thesis paper (double spaced, typed, 8 pages).
• **One public service announcement (PSA)** -Individual 60 second video.
• **Group documentary film/DVD and website** -Group thesis "videography."
• **Quizzes on readings** -There will be quizzes on assigned readings in class.

Components of final grade:
Documentary Project= 30%; Thesis Paper= 25% (5/10/10), Presentation= 15%, Quizzes= 10%, PSA= 10%; Attendance and Class Participation= 10%.
Schedule

• Week 1: Introduction and Application
  Tuesday (Aug. 31): MPGs, show trailers 'GMO,' PSA, Group Assignments, RU-486
  Reading assignment: Bill Joy WIRED article and go buy Hi8 tapes ASAP.
  Thursday (Sept. 2): STUDIO TIME (Camera work) - show 'Fuel' film

• Week 2: Media and Bill Joy
  Tuesday (Sept. 7): STUDIO TIME (iMovie tutorial) - show 'Warming' film
  Thursday (Sept. 9): Quiz & Short Constructive Controversy with Bill Joy Article
  Reading assignment: Ch. 1 Great Feuds and Ch. 1 Selling Science

• Week 3: Controversy & Public Service Announcements
  Tuesday (Sept. 14): Quiz & Constructive Controversy with Feuds Article
  Thursday (Sept. 16): PSAs Due, Controversy (cont.) "This is ME, this my IDEA."

• Week 4: Framing & Presenting Your Argument
  Tuesday (Sept. 21): STUDIO TIME (build rubrics for grading projects)
  Thursday (Sept. 23): Group Idea Presentations Today - film paper/articles due
  (All members are the presenters and are informally graded for this Oral Presentation).

• Week 5: Storyboards
  Tuesday (Sept. 28): STUDIO TIME
  Thursday (Sept. 30): Group Storyboard Presentations Today
  (Storyboarder and Cinematographer are presenters and graded for this Presentation).
  Reading assignment: Ch. 5 Great Feuds: Darwin's Bulldog

• Week 6: War of the Worlds
  Tuesday (Oct. 5): Quiz & "Shotgun Discussion" of Feuds reading
  Thursday (Oct. 7): Movie Day: Documentary "Roger and Me."

• Week 7: Thesis Paper Arguments and Outlines
  Tuesday (Oct. 12): STUDIO TIME
  (3 page double-spaced typed outline due and you will present your plan to the class)

• Week 8: Website Designs
  Tuesday (Oct. 19): STUDIO TIME
  Thursday (Oct. 21): Group Website/DVD Presentations Today
  (Web-DVD Guru and Digital Editor are presenters and graded for this Presentation).
  Reading assignment: Ch. 6 Great Feuds: Lord Kelvin
**Week 9: What's Your Point?**
Tuesday (Oct. 26): Quiz & Constructive Controversy on the Feuds reading.
Thursday (Oct. 28): Movie Day: Documentary "War Room"
Reading assignment: *Ch. 8 Great Feuds: Wegener*

**Week 10: Critiques on The House.**
Tuesday (Nov. 2): S T U D I O  T I M E
Thursday (Nov. 4): Quiz & Shotgun Discussion of Wegener.
Reading assignment: *Ch. 10 Great Feuds: Freeman vs Mead*

**Week 11: Thesis Papers**
Tuesday (Nov. 9): S T U D I O  T I M E
*Rough Drafts of Thesis Papers Due* at start of class (6 page double-spaced).
Thursday (Nov. 11): Quiz & Constructive Controversy on Feuds.

**Week 12: Thesis Projects**
Tuesday (Nov. 16): S T U D I O  T I M E
Thursday (Nov. 18): *Progress Reports on Documentary* (show crude video).

**Week 13: Push and Panic**
Tuesday (Nov. 23): S T U D I O  T I M E
Thursday (Nov. 25): *Thanksgiving Recess*

**Week 14: Documentary Films and Websites**
Tuesday (Nov. 30): S T U D I O  T I M E
Thursday (Nov. 2): *Final Presentation 1*
(Director is presenter and responsible for Presentation, group shares grade).

**Week 15: Documentary Films and Websites**
Tuesday (Dec. 7): *Final Presentation 2*
(Director is presenter and responsible for Presentation, group shares grade).
Thursday (Dec. 9): *Final Presentation 3*
(Director is presenter and responsible for Presentation, group shares grade).

**Finals Week: 8 page Thesis Paper Due (and final GEA form)** at beginning of scheduled final exam period