

SCIENCE IN HUMAN CULTURE

shc.northwestern.edu

The Science in Human Culture Program prepares students to confront the global impact of science, medicine, and technology on society—and on their own lives. The adjunct major and the minor welcome humanities, social science, and science majors, including premedical students, wishing to surmount modern science's compartmentalization of knowledge. Courses bridge the sciences and the humanities and seek to foster critical thinking about the limits, authority, and impact of science, a mode of understanding and intervening that is often said to be the defining feature of modern culture.

For an up-to-date listing of courses and more information about the adjunct major and minor, consult the program website. Questions may be directed to the program administrator at shc-program@northwestern.edu.

Themes and Eligible Courses

Some of the themes adopted by students have included medicine and society; science, environment, and society; technology and social change; science and gender; religion and scientific knowledge; and philosophy of science. For example, students interested in medicine and society might explore the interaction of medical knowledge and practice, medical ethics, and the boundaries between sickness and health. Topics addressed might include the authority of the physician, the role of the hospital, the social dimensions of racial and gender differences, and the changing conception of disease and healing.

Eligible courses include (when offered) the list below. Many other eligible courses are offered periodically and appear in the online quarterly class list posted on the program website.

Anthropology

Course	Title
ANTHRO 315-0	Medical Anthropology
ANTHRO 332-0	The Anthropology of Reproduction
ANTHRO 334-0	The Anthropology of HIV/AIDS: Ethnographies
ANTHRO 343-0	Anthropology of Race
ANTHRO 383-0	Environmental Anthropology

Communication Studies

Course	Title
COMM_ST 227-0	Communication & Technology
COMM_ST 246-0	Intro to Health Communication
COMM_ST 351-0	Technology & Human Interaction
COMM_ST 353-0	Collaboration Technology
COMM_ST 378-0	Online Communities and Crowds
COMM_ST 383-0	Media, Communication, and Environment
COMM_ST 386-0	Science, Technology, and Society
COMM_ST 388-0	Internet and Society

Economics

Course	Title
ECON 307-0	Economics of Medical Care
ECON 318-0	History of Economic Thought
ECON 323-1	Economic History of the United States Before 1865

ECON 323-2	Economic History of the United States 1865 to Present
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Environmental Policy and Culture

Course	Title
ENVR_POL 211-0	Food and Society: An Introduction
ENVR_POL 212-0	Environment and Society
ENVR_POL 309-0	American Environmental History
ENVR_POL 311-0	Food, Politics and Society
ENVR_POL 336-0	The Climate Crisis, Policies, and Society
ENVR_POL 340-0	Global Environments and World History

Global Health

Course	Title
GBL_HLTH 201-0	Introduction to Global Health
GBL_HLTH 302-0	Global Bioethics
GBL_HLTH 306-0	Biomedicine and Culture
GBL_HLTH 307-0	International Perspectives on Mental Health
GBL_HLTH 309-0	Biomedicine and World History

Gender Studies

Course	Title
GNDR_ST 232-0	Sexuality and Society
GNDR_ST 250-0	Gender Issues in Science and Health
GNDR_ST 332-0	Gender, Sexuality, and Health
GNDR_ST 374-0	Gender, Sexuality, and Digital Technologies

History

Course	Title
HISTORY 251-0	The Politics of Disaster: A Global Environmental History
HISTORY 275-1	History of Early Modern Science and Medicine
HISTORY 275-2	History of Modern Science and Medicine
HISTORY 325-0	History of American Technology
HISTORY 376-0	Global Environments and World History
HISTORY 378-0	History of Law and Science
HISTORY 379-0	Biomedicine and World History

Humanities

Course	Title
HUM 220-0	Health, Biomedicine, Culture, and Society

Journalism

Course	Title
JOUR 383-0	Health and Science Reporting

Philosophy

Course	Title
PHIL 151-0	Scientific Reasoning
PHIL 254-0	Introduction to Philosophy of the Natural Sciences
PHIL 268-0	Ethics and the Environment
PHIL 269-0	Bioethics
PHIL 275-0	Climate Change and Sustainability: Ethical Dimensions
PHIL 326-0	Topics in Philosophy of Medicine
PHIL 352-0	Philosophy of Mathematics
PHIL 355-0	Scientific Method in the Social Sciences

Political Science

Course	Title
POLL_SCI 329-0	U.S. Environmental Politics
POLL_SCI 349-0	International Environmental Politics

Psychology

Course	Title
PSYCH 248-0	Health Psychology
PSYCH 340-0	Psychology and Law

Religious Studies

Course	Title
RELIGION 173-0	Religion, Medicine & Suffering in the West
RELIGION 373-0	Religion and Bioethics

Sociology

Course	Title
SOCIOLOGY 211-0	Food and Society: An Introduction
SOCIOLOGY 212-0	Environment and Society
SOCIOLOGY 220-0	Health, Biomedicine, Culture, and Society
SOCIOLOGY 232-0	Sexuality and Society
SOCIOLOGY 305-0	Population Dynamics
SOCIOLOGY 311-0	Food, Politics and Society
SOCIOLOGY 319-0	Sociology of Science
SOCIOLOGY 321-0	Numbers, Identity & Modernity: How Calculation Shapes Who We Are & What We Know
SOCIOLOGY 336-0	The Climate Crisis, Policies, and Society

Programs of Study

- Science in Human Culture Adjunct Major (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/science-human-culture/science-human-culture-adjunct-major/>)
- Science in Human Culture Minor (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/science-human-culture/science-human-culture-minor/>)

SHC 101-7 College Seminar (1 Unit) Small, writing and discussion-oriented course exploring a specific topic or theme, and introducing skills necessary to thriving at Northwestern. Not eligible to be applied towards a WCAS major or minor except where specifically indicated.

SHC 101-8 First-Year Writing Seminar (1 Unit) Small, writing and discussion-oriented course exploring a specific topic or theme, and focused on the fundamentals of effective, college-level written communication. Not eligible to be applied towards a WCAS major or minor except where specifically indicated.

SHC 398-1 Science in Human Culture Senior Seminar (1 Unit) For students who wish to qualify for honors by writing a senior thesis.

SHC 398-2 Science in Human Culture Senior Seminar (1 Unit) For students who wish to qualify for honors by writing a senior thesis.

SHC 398-3 Science in Human Culture Senior Seminar (1 Unit) For students who wish to qualify for honors by writing a senior thesis.