

**NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Title: SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Course #: SCI* 106

Course Description: 3 semester hours.

This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of the scientific method, scientific vocabulary and basic chemical and biological processes so that they can adequately evaluate the scientific information they encounter in their daily lives. Topics such as water pollution, climate change, nutrition, disease, and food systems will be explored.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite:

SCI* 099 or equivalent and placement into ENG* 101 or satisfactory scores on placement exams.

Goals:

To assist students in developing an understanding of the scientific method and basic chemical and biological concepts in the context of societal problems; explore some of the most pressing science issues facing human societies today, including climate change, water pollution, genetic engineering, diseases, and the overall forecast for the human condition in the next several decades, analyze how science can inform policies that will shape the future of society.

Outcomes: At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- discuss and apply the scientific method
- demonstrate a working scientific vocabulary and a "scientific literacy" of some of the most pressing issues facing the human condition today
- distinguish science from pseudoscience in examples of popular advertising and media
- examine some of the major scientific issues that will affect our society within the next several decades
- explain through course examples how science can inform policies that will shape our society
- describe some of the limits of our knowledge when predicting how modern technology will affect the human condition
- summarize basic chemistry and apply this information to water pollution, climate change and other environmental problems
- describe the major natural and anthropogenic factors that can influence our climate, and have a general sense of our level of scientific understanding of each; apply your knowledge and propose/debate possible societal responses to global climate change
- explain basic biological chemistry and apply this information to farming, soils, nutrition, diet and disease
- understand global/national trends in resource consumption, using the example of water, and apply your knowledge to describe how society might adapt as resources run out
- explain the role of DNA, discuss DNA testing and genetics, and assess the impact of biotechnology and genetic manipulation on society
- describe and debate the potential risks and achievable benefits of genetic engineering

- describe the risks posed by emerging infectious disease, and how scientific research may be incorporated into a societal response
- express opinions based in scientific data as citizens in scientific and environmental debates
- assess the role of science and analyze the dilemmas faced by scientists in today's society
- evaluate scientific information and make informed decisions

College Policies

Plagiarism: Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty are not tolerated at Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Violators of this policy will be subject to sanctions ranging from failure of the assignment (receiving a zero), failing the course, being removed/expelled from the program and/or the College. Please refer to your "Student Handbook" under "Policy on Student Rights," the Section entitled "Student Discipline," or the College catalog for additional information.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities. Students should notify Dr. Christine Woodcock, the Counselor for Students with Disabilities. She is located at Green Woods Hall, in the Center for Student Development. Her phone number is 860-738-6318 and her email is cwoodcock@nwcc.edu.

School Cancellations: If snowy or icy driving conditions cause the postponement or cancellation of classes, announcements will be made on local radio and television stations and posted on the College's website at www.nwcc.edu. Students may also call the College directly at **(860) 738-6464** to hear a recorded message concerning any inclement weather closings. Students are urged to exercise their own judgment if road conditions in their localities are hazardous.

Use of Electronic Devices: Some course content as presented in Blackboard Learn is not fully supported on mobile devices at this time. While mobile devices provide convenient access to check in and read information about your courses, they should not be used to perform work such as taking tests, quizzes, completing assignments, or submitting substantive discussion posts.

Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Resource Team: NCCC is committed to creating a community that is safe and supportive of people of all gender and sexual identities. This pertains to the entire campus community, whether on ground or virtual, students, faculty, or staff.

Sexual assault and intimate partner violence is an affront to our national conscience, and one we cannot ignore. It is our hope that no one within our campus community will become a victim of these crimes. However, if it occurs, NCCC has created the SART Team - Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Resource Team - to meet the victim's needs.

SART is a campus and community based team that is fully trained to provide trauma-informed compassionate service and referrals for comprehensive care. The team works in partnership with The Susan B. Anthony Project to extend services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the year.

The NCCC team members are:

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| Ruth Gonzalez, Ph.D. | 860-738-6315 | Green Woods Hall Room 207 |
| Susan Berg | 860-738-6342 | Green Woods Hall Room 223 |
| Kathleen Chapman | 860-738-6344 | Green Woods Hall Room 110 |
| Michael Emanuel | 860-738-6389 | Founders Hall Annex Room 308 |
| Seth Kershner | 860-738-6481 | Library |
| Jane O'Grady | 860-738-6393 | Founders Hall Annex Room 212 |
| Robin Orloski | 860-738-6416 | Business Office Room 201 |
| Patricia Bouffard, Ex-Officio | 860-738-6319 | Founders Hall Room 103 |
| Savannah Schmitt | | Student Representative |

At NCCC we care about our students, staff and faculty and their well-being. It is our intention to facilitate the resources needed to help achieve both physical and emotional health.