

Spring 2008--Advanced Learning Community

Learning communities courses are designed and taught by teams of faculty members from different disciplines. Courses are integrated across disciplines and relate to a common theme. The professors are selected for their dedication to undergraduate teaching and their talent in the classroom. Learn more at

<http://clas.asu.edu/students/learningcommunities>.

The Social, Political, and Scientific Challenges of New Technologies: Nanotechnology	9 credits
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New technologies hold great promise, but it takes more than just scientists to realize the benefits. This Learning Community brings together scholars from chemistry, political science, and the social studies of technology to help students think through the interplay among technology, society, and policy. As a case study, the course will explore nanotechnology – the creation of devices that capitalize on the unique properties of materials manipulated at the molecular level. This Learning Community will give students an understanding of the scientific foundations of nanotechnology, tools for assessing its possible implications, and strategies for building the social and political structures that will direct its development and use.

This Learning Community will not be a typical university course. Because the faculty work together to make the material relevant and interrelated, the course will be more interesting than three individual courses. For instance, the course will include a science fiction writing workshop, frequent chemistry demonstrations (yes we will blow things up), and off-campus and on-campus field trips. You won't just learn about politics, nanotechnology, and society, you'll learn how they interact with one another through discussions and hands-on projects.

This community fulfills 6 credit hours of Science and Society requirement for B.S. students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, or 6 credit hours of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and 3 credit hours of upper level natural science elective.

Prerequisites: CHM 113 or CHM 114

Courses

CHM 394: Nanotechnology: Concepts and Applications

POS 426: Elements of Public Policy

ASB 394: Technology and Society

Librarian: TBD

Faculty: Jamey Wetmore (lead), Ira Bennett, David Guston

Faculty Disciplines: School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Chemistry, Political Science

General Studies Credits: L* (pending)