

Lecture 1: Introduction: The Rise of Modern Science

1. Introduction: Defining the Scope
 - Vast enterprise of science
 - Professional and popular
 - Must narrow the scope

2. What is Science?
 - Definitions of science
 - MIT's curriculum as an answer?
 - Top 10 Lists

3. What is the History of Science?
 - Also a professional activity
 - Initial interest in the history of scientific progress
 - Now interested in role of science in society
 - STS.003: US and Europe, 1650 to the present

4. Overview of the STS.003
 - Lectures
 - Readings
 - Requirements

5. Goals of the Course
 - Not a history of famous scientists
 - What is science, what do scientists do?
 - How do scientists know what they know?
 - Knowledge vs. belief
 - Impact of science on society
 - Impact of society on science
 - Truth vs. consensus: the culture wars
 - Why this is important: e.g. the status of evolution in the US
 - The status and prestige of science: are scientists respected?