

**Instructor:** Roxane Ronca (Math and SMATE), [roncar@wwu.edu](mailto:roncar@wwu.edu)

**SCED 370:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:50

Click here for the [SCED 370 link for Classroom](#) zoom information. We will meet via zoom Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:50. Because bouncing ideas around and building community are such important parts of the culture of science, these zoom meetings are mandatory and I will be taking attendance. When we are in the whole group, feel free to keep your video off; however, when in small group discussions it is often helpful to have videos on but I will not require it. If you have technical issues, please let me know ASAP. WWU has laptops with video cameras to check out, for example. During our classroom zooms, you will need to access google docs, Canvas, and we will be sharing screens. If your internet dies, please phone in.

**Office hours:** please use calendly to schedule office hours via zoom:

<https://calendly.com/roxane-appointments/roxane-via-zoom>

Click here for [Office Hours Zoom link](#)

### **Classroom Climate**

Welcome to SCED 370! Your active participation in this class will ensure you, and the class, have a productive, positive learning experience. We will work hard to establish and maintain a classroom climate that is inclusive and respectful of all students, and makes active participation productive and fun. Learning includes being able to voice and hear a variety of perspectives. While students' ideas may vary, it is important that we engage respectfully with each other. We will make our best efforts to pronounce each others' names correctly and to respect one another's personal pronouns. Discriminatory talk and actions, including microaggressions, will not be tolerated. We will be working in groups, but if you would like to change your group for any reason, please let me know and I will try to accommodate your request.

### **Course Description**

Many understand science is a lens or framework used to make sense of the world, solve problems, and have profound experiences of awe and wonder. A scientific way of knowing can help us make sense of phenomena that might seem unrelated to our everyday experiences (Astronomy, for example); and of course a scientific view the world can help us in very everyday decisions (shall I wear a mask?).

Science is also a matter of social justice. Who in our society gets to have access to science, gets to contribute to science, or gets to benefit from science, or, is harmed by science? In this course, we will explore the meaning and importance of scientific literacy and how scientific literacy relates to issues of equity and social justice, discuss different types of scientific controversies, and explore frameworks for teaching scientific literacy at the secondary level. In the past, climate change has been used as a backdrop for many of the explorations and discussions in this class, however, given that a global pandemic is now profoundly affecting our

lives, I expect that much of our discussions will be around COVID-19. We will explore issues around how science is consumed and perceived by the public, policy-makers, politicians, and educators.

Because communication is paramount to applying science to societal issues, the development of written and oral communication skills around scientific issues will be a major goal of this course, and you will have several opportunities to practice and get feedback on developing scientific arguments and communicating these in written and oral form. You will therefore earn 3 Writing Proficiency (WP) points by successfully completing this course.

## **Course Outcomes**

You will. . .

1. Understand why science involves controversy and what its strengths and limitations are in solving societal issues.
2. Develop the skills to productively analyze scientific claims and claims about science-related topics from the media.
3. Gain awareness of how issues of equity and social justice are inextricably linked to the scientific enterprise.
4. Gain skill in developing and expressing scientific arguments in oral and written form. This is a WP-3 Course.

## **Attendance and Participation**

This is a seminar course and thus will rely heavily on your participation. Class meetings will generally revolve around discussions of assigned readings and of your research. At the beginning of classes during the first part of the quarter we will spend a few minutes sharing news items. You are required to subscribe to a service that will supply you with science news. Links are provided on Canvas. Part of your grade will be determined based on participation. Several different data points will go into your participation score, including periodic self, peer, and instructor evaluations.

### **Missing a Class**

Because this is a collaborative seminar-style course, a missed class cannot simply be made up by getting the notes from a peer or the instructor. Because of this, attendance is required unless you have a valid excuse \*and\* have communicated with the instructor (via Email: [roncar@wwu.edu](mailto:roncar@wwu.edu)) PRIOR to class.

Valid reasons include:

- If you are ill and don't feel well enough to participate in class
- A planned trip away from campus that is associated with a school organization (e.g., you are a WWU soccer player traveling to a game in Ellensburg),
- A family emergency (a letter from the Office of Student Life documenting that the student's absence from the university is excused will need to be provided after the fact.)
- Religious Accommodation.

- Western provides reasonable accommodation for students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience or for organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization. Students seeking such accommodation must provide written notice to their faculty within the first two weeks of the course, citing the specific dates for which they will be absent. "Reasonable accommodation" means that faculty will coordinate with the student on scheduling examinations or other activities necessary for completion of the course or program and includes rescheduling examinations or activities or offering different times for examinations or activities. Additional information about this accommodation can be found in [SB 5166: Providing religious accommodations for postsecondary students](#)

Reasons that are not valid include:

- A family vacation for which your plane ticket was already purchased,
- A dentist appointment,
- Going to the office hours of the instructor for one of your other classes, etc.
- Your internet died (you can phone in to the zoom meeting)

Each unexcused absence will drop your course grade by 3% . If you do miss a class, you must make up the work prior to the next class period, and assigned homework is still due at the assigned time unless otherwise agreed upon with your instructor.

Late arrivals: Due to the collaborative nature of this class, it is imperative that everyone logs on to the zoom link for class, ready to go. Late arrivals are unacceptable and will negatively impact your grade (and are hard for me to manage on zoom). Each time you are late to class, points will be deducted from your attendance and participation grade. You must call/email in advance and/or have a valid emergency for a late arrival to be excused.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

- Scientific Literacy and Social Justice position paper 10%
- Context-Based Learning Assignment 10%
- Letter to parents: Teaching climate change 10%
- Causal Link poster 20%
- Big Issues Paper 20%
- Big Issues Presentation 10%
- Active Participation 20%
  - Participation in in-class discussions (includes adequate preparation for discussions)
  - Participation in online discussions
  - Self, peer, and instructor evaluations

A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: 59% and below. +/- grades will be assigned based on instructor's discretion.

**University Resources and Policies** (much of what follows is standard (meaning copied and pasted) for all Western courses and not specific to this course. It is all, however, relevant and important!)

Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities should be established within the first week of class and arranged through the Disability Access Center: telephone 360-650-3083; email drs@wwu.edu; and on the web at the [Disability Access Center](#). Review their [Documentation Guidelines](#) for the procedure for providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. See also the [Accessibility Map](#).

Student Services: Please seek assistance and support at the onset of an illness, difficulty, or crisis. There are many people who are ready to support you and you are not alone.

- In the case of a medical concern or question, please contact the Health Center: 650-3400 or <https://studenthealth.wwu.edu/>
- In the case of an emotional or psychological concern or question, please contact the Counseling Center: 650-3400 or <https://www.wwu.edu/chw>
- In the case of a health and safety concern, please contact the University Police: 650-3555 or <https://www.wwu.edu/department-public-safety>
- In the case of a family or personal crisis or emergency, please contact the Office of Student Life: 650-3706 or <https://wp.wwu.edu/officeofstudentlife/>

### **Honesty, Integrity, Rights and Responsibilities**

Integrity applies to all of the principles, values and behaviors that contribute to good character, including honesty, fairness, respect, courage and responsibility. All members of the Western community have the right to be treated fairly, and to have support and representation if accused of violating university policies related to integrity. They also have the responsibility to exhibit honest behavior, and to encourage others to do the same. If a student is suspected of dishonest behavior, the instructor must address the issue with the student by use of the official university procedures. Not only does this ensure continuity in dealing with such issues, but provides students formal opportunity for representation and appeal. Note that these incidents do not appear in a student's academic record. See [Western Coalition for Integrity](#) for procedures and details.

- Academic Honesty

All Western Washington University students have an obligation to fulfill their responsibilities as members of an academic community. Academic integrity is demanded; moreover, academic dishonesty at Western is a serious infraction dealt with severely. No student shall claim as his or her own the achievements, work, or arguments of others, nor shall he or she be a party to such claims. It is the instructor's responsibility to confront a student and to take appropriate action if such academic dishonesty has occurred. See [Appendix D: Academic Honesty Policy & Procedure](#) of the catalog for

examples, procedures, and methods of appeal and [Ensuring Academic Honesty](#) for appeal rules and timeline.

- Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting as one's own—in whole or in part—the argument, language, creations, conclusions, or scientific data of another without explicit acknowledgement.

See the Library's [Plagiarism Policies & Guidelines](#) for examples and citation guides. See [Appendix D: Academic Honesty Policy & Procedure](#) of the catalog for examples, procedures, and methods of appeal and [Ensuring Academic Honesty](#) for appeal rules and timeline.

- Your Civil Rights and How to Protect Them

Instructors at Western are committed to an environment free of discrimination and harassment. The laws, as well as Western's equal opportunity and sexual misconduct policies, protect everyone against discrimination based on: Race, Color, Creed, Religion, National Origin, Sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), Disability, Age, Veteran Status, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, Marital Status, or Genetic Information. For more information, contact the [Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance](#) (360-650-3307). If you feel the classroom climate does not reflect this commitment, you are encouraged to discuss this with your instructor. Instructors can also provide you with information about reporting options and confidential support resources. Like other Western employees (except counselors and medical staff), instructors are required to report instances of discrimination or sexual violence to the [Title IX Coordinator](#). For confidential support, contact [CASAS](#) and the [Counseling Center](#). To report a concern or make a complaint, see [Reporting a Concern & Making a Complaint](#).

- Gender Neutral Restrooms

A map showing the locations of gender neutral restrooms is available from the Campus Maps website. (See [Campus Maps](#).)

**Finals Preparation Week (a.k.a. “Dead Week”):** In preparation for Finals Week, with some exceptions, exams are not to be administered and **new** graded assignments shall not be introduced beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the term that would be due this week.

Student Conduct Code

It is important that, as a Western student, you understand the university's student conduct process. [Review the full listing in reporting a concern & making a complaint](#).