



**Course Syllabus - The Impact of Materials on Society  
FALL 2017  
EMA 1004, ANT 3930, CLA 3930, HIS 3931, and IDS 4930**

***Meeting Times*** – MWF, Period 3 (9:35-10:25am)  
***Meeting Location*** – Pugh 170  
***Credit Hours*** - 3 credit hours

***Instructor*** – Prof. Kevin Jones; Office: 160 Rhines; Telephone: 846-3301; e-mail:  
[kjones@eng.ufl.edu](mailto:kjones@eng.ufl.edu)

***Office Hours:*** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday Period 4; or when I'm in my office.

Prof. Jones will be joined by Dr. Sophia Krzys-Acord (Sociology), Prof. Susan Gillespie (Anthropology), Prof. Ken Sassaman (Anthropology), Prof. Mary Ann Eaverly (Classics), Prof. Florin Curta (History), Prof. Sean Adams (History), Prof. Bonnie Effros (History), Prof. Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo (Anthropology) and Prof. Marsha Bryant (English)

***Catalog Description*** –

This course explores the connections between the discovery of new materials -- such as ceramics, concrete, precious stones and metals, glass, steel, plastics and semiconductors - - and social transformations worldwide. To see these connections, the course will fuse basic concepts in materials science and engineering with perspectives and methods from anthropology, history, English, classics, and sociology. From ancient cities and Roman baths, to steel foundries and Tupperware parties, to virtual communities and nanomedicine, we will learn how the physical properties of different materials intersect with cultural variables like gender, race, power/authority, religious beliefs, values, and financial and political systems to shape human civilization. By connecting lessons from the past to the inventions of cutting-edge materials, we will also explore the future social impacts of new materials in medicine, construction, transportation, clean energy, sports, and other areas. Engineers play important roles in changing or maintaining the structure and fabric of society. This course will explore how their materials-based technologies shape our society, as well as how society shapes engineering innovations.

***Prerequisites and Co-requisites*** - none

***Required Reading*** –*The Substance of Civilization* by Stephen L. Sass, ISBN-13: 9781559704731. Additional readings and course materials will be provided On-Line throughout the semester. The class has a very comprehensive Canvas website.

### ***Course Objectives***

This course will introduce students to how new materials impacted social structure both historically and in the present day, and to the social and cultural forces that shape the development and use of materials and technologies from the past to future. To do this, this course will:

- Examine the interrelated nature of society and materials engineering
- Demonstrate how materials can be manipulated to solve technical and sociocultural problems
- Explore how social and cultural systems shape how humans perceive the intrinsic physical properties of materials
- Discuss how the impact of materials on society varies with the cultural and historical context.
- Give students a variety of approaches from the humanities, social sciences, and sciences to examine and shape the impact of materials on society.
- Teach students basic skills in cross-disciplinary communication, team work, and argumentative writing.
- Teach critical thinking about how disciplinary approaches and personal beliefs shape our understanding of materials.
- Teach creative thinking about how to apply this knowledge through applied projects discussing future materials innovations.

### ***Course Outline***

This course serves as a test bed for the development of a new course at universities and colleges around the country. Each week of the course will focus on a particular class of materials. The first two days of each week will examine the discovery of a particular material, its physical properties, and historical case studies of its major social impacts. In preparation for the third class meeting each week, we will watch a short video lecture on modern materials developed by scientists from around the U.S. The third class meeting will feature an in-class group activity to discover the possible social impacts of these future materials. A schedule of topics will be provided in the course notes.

***Attendance and Expectations*** - All students are expected to attend and participate in class. The class is taught in an interactive lecture format, and includes discussion and practice activities. Cell phones should be turned off in class. Reading of newspapers, work on assignments for this or other classes, or other activities that are not part of the class are not allowed during class time.

| <b><i>Assignment</i></b> | <b><i>Due Date</i></b>        | <b><i>Credit</i></b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Weekly quiz              | before each flipped classroom | 30%                  |
| Midterm                  | Monday Oct. 4                 | 20%                  |
| Second Exam              | Monday Dec. 4                 | 20%                  |
| Final Project            | Tuesday, Wednesday Dec. 5,6   | 20%                  |
| Class Participation      | Weekly group exercise         | 10%                  |

\*Extra-credit opportunities will be announced throughout the semester.

**Grading Scale** - 92-100= A; 91-89 = A-; 88-86 = B+; 85-82 = B; 81-79= B-; 78-76 = C+; 75-72 = C; 71-69 = C-; 68-66 = D+; 65-62 = D; 61-59 = D-; Less than 59 = E  
Grades are not curved.

**Make-up Exam Policy** - Make-up exams are given only for reasons of illness and in accordance with University of Florida regulations.

### ***Students Requiring Accommodations***

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### ***University Honesty Policy***

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### ***Software Use***

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### ***Student Privacy***

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

## ***Campus Resources:***

### ***Health and Wellness***

#### **U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

#### **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

### ***Academic Resources***

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

#### **Student Complaints Campus:**

[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf).

**On-Line Students Complaints:** <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.