

Environmental Science/Biology 508
Scientific Competence and Integrity
Fall Semester, Wed and Fri, 10:30-11:50 AM, WERI 105



COURSE OBJECTIVES. This course will give you an understanding of the history and nature of modern science, its methods, and its applications and misapplications. Whether you are preparing for a career in science, engineering, medicine, law, or public policy, it will equip you to identify and practice legitimate science, make informed ethical and moral judgments, and participate constructively in public discourse and decision-making on technical issues.

COURSE CONTENT. You will be introduced to the historical, philosophical, methodological, ethical, and moral aspects of scientific thought and practice, and will examine both historical and contemporary issues. Readings and discussions are built around classical examples, such as the Galileo controversy, as well as contemporary environmental issues ranging from global concerns such as climate and sea level change, to local concerns such as fisheries management and the safety of tap water.

Instructors: Dr. John Jenson, WERI; Dr. Ross Miller, WPTRC; Dr. Mark Lander, WERI.