

## **POSTER PRESENTATION - 20%**

**Students are required to prepare a poster and 1-page handout, and to participate in the class poster session on Mar 29th.**

Poster presentations and sessions are common practice in the sciences, but many students in sociology and anthropology are unfamiliar with them.

Rather than presenting your research as a formal talk, posters allow you to present the highlights in large-size text and graphics that encourage people to approach you and discuss the topics more conversationally. By preparing a corresponding handout or brochure, you also provide a copy of the information that people can keep for reference or share with others.

This means that we can all interact more casually and at our own paces—taking some of the pressure off public speaking—but even more important, there can be a dynamic exchange of knowledge between people. This kind of interactive learning encourages you to explore new ideas and ask new questions, as well as to actively solicit feedback from other people in terms of further research or direct action.

And ultimately, the poster session offers students the opportunity to gain and refine valuable and highly transferable skills in creatively preparing information, presenting it to diverse audiences, and learning through interaction and dialogue.

The poster session will take place during our last class, Mar 29<sup>th</sup>, and beverages and snacks will be provided. All students are required to attend, and each student may invite one guest.

**Student posters and handouts must address a current topic in science, technology and innovation.**

Your poster and handout should be dedicated to exploring current events and issues in science and/or technology innovation, specifically from the perspective of techno-scientific citizenship.

Using at least 6 current news or magazine stories, you must discuss how the relevant events and issues are presented in the popular press. Your work should also critically assess how these stories shape, and are shaped by, particular power relations between sciences, governments, industries, businesses and publics—and ultimately suggest possible forms of direct political action.

## Poster evaluation.

### Poster content (15 marks)

Includes clear definitions and examples of the chosen science and/or technology (3 marks); presents its social and cultural implications, including risks, benefits and any controversies (5 marks); critically assesses power relations between relevant sciences, governments, industries, businesses and publics (5 marks); provides suggestions for direct political action in the public interest (2 marks).

### Poster organisation & presentation (10 marks)

Uses creative and effective layout, including distinct sections, headings and lists (3 marks); relies on clear graphics and large text (4 marks); demonstrates adequate planning and preparation (3 marks).

### Handout content (10 marks)

Provides a clear and concise presentation of the main poster elements (3 marks); goes beyond simple duplication to include more text and suggestions for further reading and/or action (5 marks); includes sufficient and relevant sources in a properly formatted bibliography (2 marks).

### Handout organisation & presentation (5 marks)

Uses effective layout, headings and lists (3 marks); demonstrates clear commitment to discussion and information-sharing during the poster session (2 marks).

Total - 40 marks (40/2 for 20 marks total)

## Additional resources.

Keep track of current events during the term by regularly visiting some of the sites listed at the course website, and don't forget to check the course blog after Reading Week for design tips, including templates, crafting and printing options:

<http://socanth4036.wordpress.com/>

While you do need to follow the requirements above, you may find all sorts of inspiration from these links on how to prepare scientific posters:

<http://socanth4036.wordpress.com/class-assignments/#poster>