

PHIL 133: “Ethics in Science”

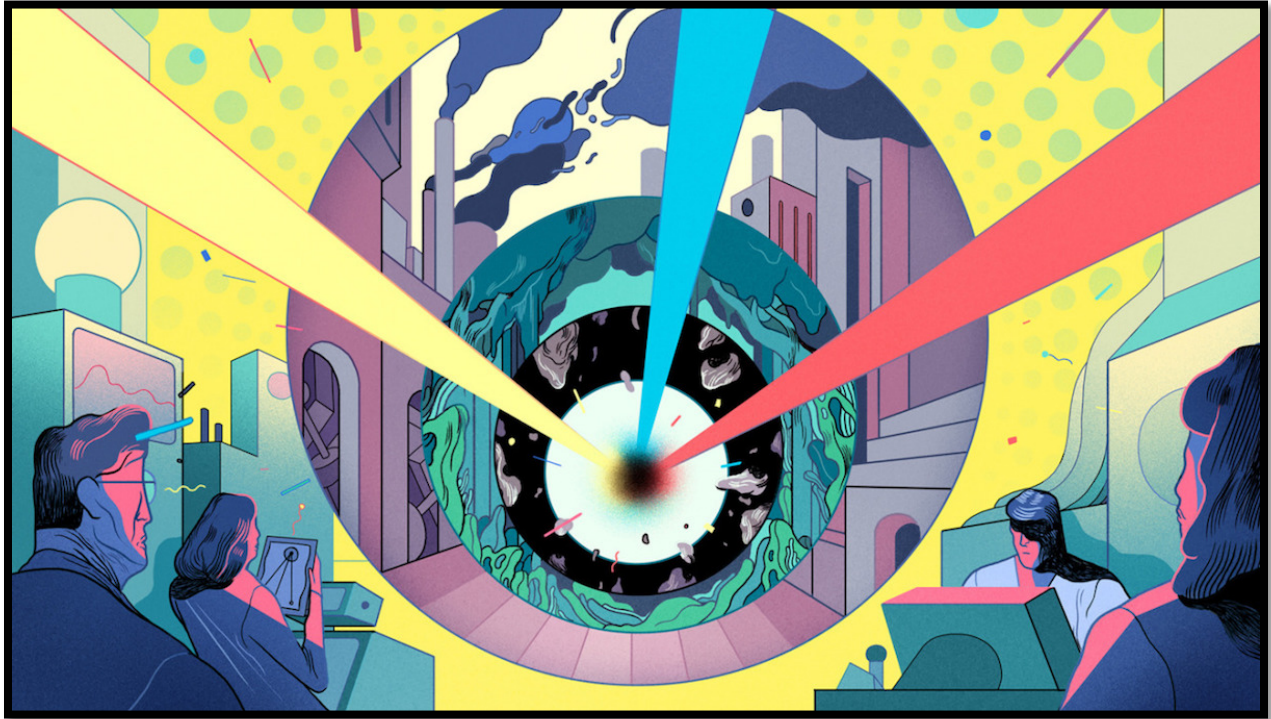
Fall 2025

PHIL 133, Section 80: Online (Asynchronous)

PHIL 133, Section 81: Online (Asynchronous)

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Should moral considerations govern, and perhaps even restrict, how scientists conduct research? How does the politicization of science change the relationship between scientific research and public trust? How should scientists respond to new waves of science denial and distrust, such as climate deniers and anti-vaxxers? This course will be concerned with addressing these sorts of questions. More specifically, this course will examine a whole host of moral, political, and social problems and challenges that arise from the practice of science. To this end, student will develop the critical thinking skills necessary to analyze and evaluate conflicting positions on complex moral issues. Topics include: research ethics, data fabrication and error, data sharing, dual-use research, controversial scientific topics, science denial and distrust, the politicization of science, corporate science, and the role of activism in science.

PHIL 133 satisfies SJSU studies Area V: Culture, Civil & Global Understanding (upper-division GE area 5)