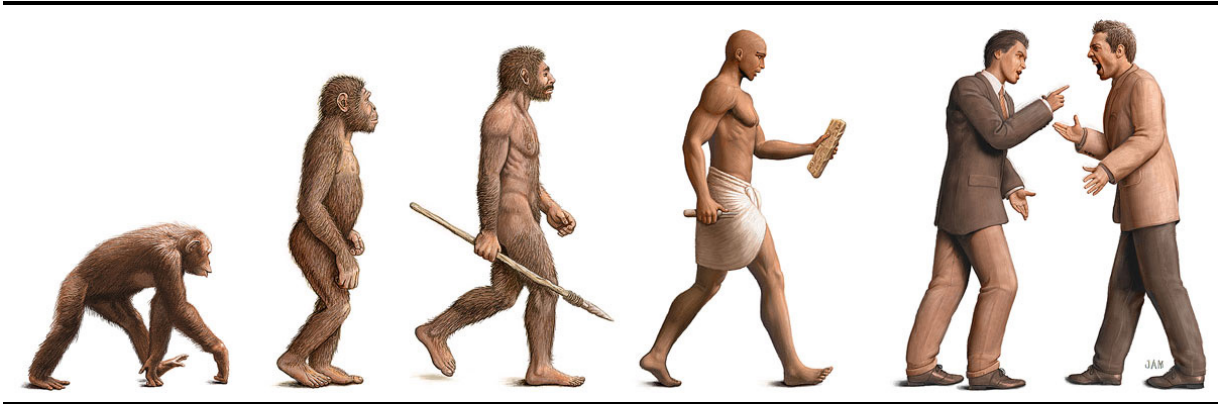


## AN INTRODUCTION TO SCIENTIFIC CONTROVERSIES

*"Science proceeds one funeral at a time"*  
— Attributed to Max Planck



### Scope & Requirements

This course examines major controversies in the history and philosophy of science. The historical classes focus on the controversies which have transformed the way we view the world and perceive ourselves as human beings. The philosophical classes investigate (1) the nature of scientific knowledge, by comparing realist and instrumentalist epistemologies, and (2) the nature of the scientific process, by considering the logical and social factors which influence the production and validation of scientific knowledge.

A strong interest in the history and philosophy of science is expected as well as the ability to handle ideas and debate them. For the continuous assessment, students will have to write an essay and take part in a blog discussion of a controversial scientific issue. For the final exam, students will have to produce a short video essay presenting their personal thoughts about science.

### Format & Skills

This course is structured as a flipped classroom, which means that you will do most of your work autonomously before class. This will involve studying textual and audiovisual documents on a website and reflecting on the issues raised by the documents. Class will then take place over a condensed time span, during which you will confront your thoughts with those of your classmates and build in the process a shared understanding of the issues at stake.

This course will actively involve the five skills necessary to improving your English language proficiency before or after taking the Cambridge English: C1 Advanced (or any other certification). Ahead of class, you will practice your listening and reading skills. Class time will subsequently give you the opportunity to practice your speaking and interaction skills. Finally, the essay you will write at home and the joint blog post you will write in class will mobilize your writing skills.

### Contents

The full contents of the course are accessible at this address:

<https://scientificcontroversies.wordpress.com/>