

Spring 2010
MALS CORE COURSE

MALS619-010
The Scientist in Society
Professor David Smith
Thursday 6:00 to 9:00pm
(302) 831-2275

Scientific research is directly influenced by the society in which it is conducted. In addition to financial limitations, constraints are imposed by societal norms of what are acceptable topics and procedures for research. There are, therefore, a series of interdependent rights and responsibilities which operate between scientific research and the society at large.

Science is often proclaimed to have connections to virtually all aspects of the modern world, and indeed to be a key factor in the development of the modern world. What is less often emphasized is that science as an enterprise is practiced by individuals and there is much to be learned by going beyond strictly institutional considerations. Therefore, this course will examine broad questions of the relation of scientists to society from historical, philosophical, and literary points of view. Because of the diverse nature of the scientific endeavor, these different approaches all provide us with their own peculiar insights.