**Assignment due on Oct 7 (2022)**

Read Henry Bauer, *Scientific Literacy in One Easy Lesson: Skepticism about science and medicine* (2012)

1. How does Bauer define ‘scientific literacy’? Is this how measurements of the public’s scientific literacy defined?

He defines it as understanding what role science can properly play in the wider society but Scientific literacy is usually equated to knowing scientific facs, theories, and concepts.

1. According to Bauer, do most scientists use the ‘scientific method’ (is most science performed by the ‘scientific method’?

No, as all sorts of things can affect how hypothesis are tested / perceived such as preconceptions, conflicts of interest, and other quite personal matters.

3) According to Bauer, does science deal in truth?

No as Scientists cannot prove / assume that a theory from the past will still be considered ‘true’ in the future

1. How does Bauer define ‘scientism’?

A religious like faith in science caused by the misguided belief that science represents truth

1. We have discussed biases such as confirmation bias and investigator bias. According to Bauer, are scientists immune from biases?

No, Scientists are people like everyone else, so while people may see them as objective Scientists have their own judgements and interests and are far from objective.

1. According to Bauer, ‘why things are as they are is not observable; explanations are inferences, not facts’. What have we (as in this class) been calling scientific explanations?

Scientific Theories

1. Should we uncritically accept scientific claims? Why or why not?

As Scientists are not immune from Bias or other outside factors, claims should be critically examined to see if the claim has been infected with outside influence or is a legitimate take on some kind of phenomenon. All claims should be examined in some sort of fashion.

8) Phrases such as ‘follow the science’, and ‘I believe in science’ have become popular during the pandemic. When someone uses one of these phrases are they promoting critically assessing evidence to determine what inferences, if any, should be made from the evidence, are they promoting ‘believe what authorities tell you to believe’, or are they promoting something else? If the later, please explain.

In most scenarios most people say phrases like that in order to stop a conversation because an authority they trust said that this was the case. Most people were saying this phrase as a way to stop conversations on Covid vaccines for example when Dr. Fauci said to get them because of X. It boiled down to Trust the authorities because they know when in fact Fauci and the others were terribly wrong about many parts of covid.