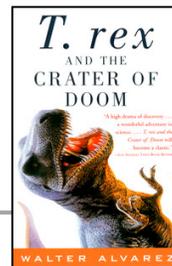
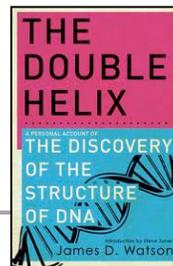
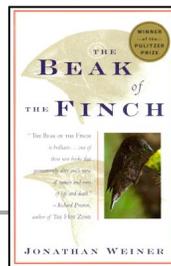


SCI 613: Science-in-Action Report



Rationale:

Abstract ideas, such as the ones we will be discussing in this course, can often be clarified through examples. For this assignment, you will read a book-length account of the scientific enterprise (e.g. *The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA*, or *A Feeling for the Organism: The Life and Work of Barbara McClintock*). You will compare the account to course ideas, making connections, finding examples, and discovering discrepancies. In other words, you are looking for how the story exemplifies the nature of science. You will be asked to illustrate your findings in two ways: 1) a written report and 2) a class presentation.

Paper guidelines:

Due: _____

Papers should be formatted with 1" margins, single-line spacing, and 12-point font such as Times New Roman. Length will be between 1,500 and 2,000 words depending on how concisely you write. Your analysis should be guided by the questions provided below and linked to those discussed in the course. The purpose of the paper is not to simply retell the story from the book but rather to describe the ways in which the story reveals important aspects of the nature of science. APA format should be used for all references and citations.

In your paper, please:

- Create section headers for each of the aspects of NOS you are discussing.
- Use direct quotes from the text to evidence your claims.
- Reference multiple course readings to link your claims to course content.

Questions to guide your written analysis: (these are just to jog your thinking!)

- What element of this episode seems to you most characteristic or most revealing about the nature of science? Why?
- What factors—personal, technological, cultural, and/or scientific—led this person to the investigation?
- How was the investigation designed and why was it designed as it was?
- What data did the investigator collect?
- How did the investigator interpret the data?
- How did the investigator try to persuade others? Did contemporaries accept the ideas? Are they accepted today? Why or why not?
- Were there ethical dimensions to this investigation/research? If so, how were they resolved?

Presentation guidelines:

Due: _____

- The presentation should be 8-10 minutes in length. Visuals are recommended but not required.
- The purpose of the presentation is to engage the class in the story (or part of the story) from the book while explicitly referencing the nature of science as you would in a classroom.