Seminar: The Power and Mystery of Expertise  
Spring 2012  
Professors Sheila Jasanoff and David Kennedy  

Syllabus  

Mondays 5:00-7:00pm (Block H)  
2 classroom credits LAW-98057A  

How is expertise produced, disseminated, controlled and challenged? What part of expertise is knowledge, what part common-sense, analytics, argument, lifestyle, character? How does expertise write itself into power—or submission? How does expertise become rulership? What is the work of disciplinary formations or the professions in reproducing practices of criticism and professional judgment? How ought one to go about mapping the operations of expertise, how to interpret the stakes in an expert vernacular?  

The seminar is open by permission of the instructors. Those interested in enrolling should address a short statement to one of the two instructors describing their interest. Cross registration by students from other University departments encouraged.  

Requirements: students will be expected to prepare and participate in weekly discussions and write a final essay.  

Books to purchase:  

January 23. What is “expertise?” What is “governance?”  
Optional background reading:


**January 30. Ideas as rulership**

- **WILHELM ROEPKE**, *Economic Order and International Law*, 86 Recueil des Cours 203 (1954 II) (excerpts)


**February 6. Language and discourse, analytic and argument**


February 13. Reason and argument, logic and quantification


- THEODORE PORTER, Trust in Numbers (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1995), Ch. 4 (“The Political Philosophy of Quantification”), pp. 73-86.

- DOUGLAS KYSAR, Regulating from Nowhere: Environmental Law and the Search for Objectivity (New Haven: Yale University Press 2010), Ch. 6 (“Other Generations”), pp. 150-175.

February 20. Power and institutions


February 27. The Background: context, rules, structures, system


March 5. An Example: War

- **ERROL MORRIS**, *The Fog of War* – film to be screened prior to the class.


March 19. Elite formations and professions


March 26. Performance and style


April 2.  Tacit knowledge, unconscious, unstated, common sense and nonsense


- *Quintavalle vs Secretary of State for Health*, http://www.ipsofactoj.com/international/2003/Part08/int2003%288%29-005.htm

April 9.  Expert effects, expertise that “works,” decisions and outcomes


April 16. Slipping the noose of expertise? Decisionism? Politics?

