

Welcome to CGS602A

About the course

- This course is about how day-to-day science is/should be done?
- Follow up question: What is science?

A simple view of science

Any body of knowledge or claim with the following attributes.

- Logically coherent.
- It is in principle falsifiable.
- Can be used to make predictions that can be verified by inter-subjective experiments.

Which of these is a science?

- Quantum mechanics.
- String theory.
- Theory of evolution.
- Alternative medicine like (homeopathy, ayurveda, pranic healing, acupuncture/puncture).
- Astrology, palmistry, numerology.
- Sociology.
- Psychology/cognitive science.

Some questions?

- Are humans rational decision makers?
- Does spanking hurt children?
- A bank hired 32 males and 61 females during an 8 year period for the same positions. The average male salary was \$818 more than the average female salary. Is their gender discrimination in the bank?
- Will Covaxin (or any other) vaccine for Covid-19 work?