Sociology of Knowledge and Science

This course examines the development of the sociology of knowledge and science from its nineteenth-century origins to the present day. It seeks to convey a) an understanding of the ways in which knowledge has been grasped in sociological terms and b) the ways in which science and knowledge have affected social life in the past two centuries or so.

Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”
Tocqueville, “Men of Letters” in The Old Regime and the Revolution, Book Three, Chapter 1
Marx, The German Ideology, pp. 148-174; Manifesto of the Communist Party, pp. 473-483
Durkheim, “Individualism and the Intellectuals”
Weber, “Science as a Vocation” and “Religious Rejections of the World and Their Directions”
Karl Mannheim, Ideology and Utopia
Maurice Halbwachs, “The Social Frameworks of Memory,” in On Collective Memory
Joseph Schumpeter, “Sociology of the Intellectual,” in Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy
Thomas Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions
Pierre Bourdieu, “The Specificity of the Scientific Field and the Social Conditions of the Progress of Reason”
Michel Foucault, “Truth and Power”
Clifford Geertz, “‘From the Native’s Point of View’: On the Nature of Anthropological Understanding”
Alvin Gouldner, The Future of Intellectuals and the Rise of the New Class
(see also https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/15/opinion/democracy-inequality-thomas-piketty.html)
Bruno Latour and Steve Woolgar, Laboratory Life
Donna Haraway, “The Cyborg Manifesto”
Steven Epstein, “The Construction of Lay Expertise”
Jerome Karabel, “Towards a Theory of Intellectuals and Politics”
http://www.nybooks.com/articles/1996/08/08/sokals-hoax/
Randall Collins, The Sociology of Philosophies: A Global Theory of Intellectual Change, Intro & Ch. 1
Steven Shapin, The Scientific Life
Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future
Tom Nichols, The Death of Expertise
Steven Pinker, Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress
Michael Mann, “Have Wars and Violence Declined?”
Michael Mann, “Have Human Societies Evolved? Evidence From History and Pre-History”
Review(s) of Better Angels in Science and elsewhere