Teratology
Science and Social Issues #3

- Alcohol
  * Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)
    - 3rd most prevalent type of mental retardation: 1 out of every 500 to 700 births in US
    - physical phenotypes—deformed head structures, small brain
    - low IQ, approx. 70

  * Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE)
    - lower intake of alcohol
    - no detectable physical phenotypes
    - lowered intelligence and functional abilities
  * prevalent in certain racial/ethnic groups (e.g., Native Americans)

- Viruses
  * Rubella
    - teratology if contract early during pregnancy
    - 1963-1965 epidemic—20,000 deaths & 30,000 birth defects in US
  * Herpes simplex

- Chemicals—environment and food
  * remember our deformed frogs
  * dioxin and the bird brain

Finally:

- Science is poised to have postive impact on development

- There may actually be positive influences on development we can effect!!
  * engage science public policy
  * do special things during pregnancy