Science, Technology, and Society: Core Seminar
HTS6743/LMC6743/PUBP6743

Fall 2015 Syllabus
Course Meets: Tuesdays 6:05-8:55pm
Location: Hall 103
Convener: Anne Pollock, apollock@gatech.edu
Office Hours: Skiles 360, Mondays 1:30-3 or by appointment

Course Description
Science, Technology and Society (STS) - also called Science and Technology Studies - is an interdisciplinary field of study that seeks to understand how science and technology shape society and culture and how society and culture, in turn, shape the development of science and technology. This course explores key topics, debates, and theoretical perspectives in STS. Featuring guest lectures by faculty from across the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, the seminar introduces students both to a wide range of STS topics and approaches and to faculty who do research in this area. It is also the core course required for the Graduate Certificate in Science, Technology & Society.

Objectives
- To deepen awareness of social, cultural, and epistemic dynamics of science and technology
- To communicate in sophisticated ways about these issues, especially orally and in writing
- To become familiar with select foundational texts in the field of STS
- To explore key themes in STS from diverse disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives
- To be exposed to faculty from across the Ivan Allen College who do STS-related work

Assessment
3 components, equally weighted (each worth 1/3rd of final grade)
1. Class Participation
   This course is designed as a seminar in which active participation from all students is necessary; the benefits of this class come from talking as much as listening. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in depth, and to devote engaged attention to guest lecturers and to classmates’ contributions.

2. Weekly Reading Responses
   Before each class, each student writes an entry responding to the readings for that day on the blog section of T-Square. The weekly responses should be ~500 words each and should be posted 24 hours before class (by Monday at 6pm). They must: (1) demonstrate having done the reading, (2) reflect on how the reading relates to material earlier in the course and/or broader issues, and (3) note comments and questions that you would like to raise in class.

3. Take Away Examination
   Two Questions: one overview, obligatory; one specialized, chosen from many. 1500 words each.

Important Notes on Readings:
- Readings listed are preliminary and subject to change as per the direction of the guest lecturers. Be sure to check T-Square to get any updated reading assignments.
- All readings will available as PDFs or links on T-Square at least two weeks in advance of the class for which they are assigned.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required.
ADAPTS accommodation is available for students with disabilities: http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/
Honor Code: Students must do their own work on blogs and exams. Late work will not be accepted.
Week 1: 8/18
Introduction to the Course

In-class film, “Island of Flowers,” directed by Jorge Furtado (1989)

Week 2: 8/25
The Social Construction of Truth - The Social Construction of Technology
Guest Lecturers: John Krige and Jenny Smith


Week 3: 9/1
Paradigms and Thought Styles
Guest Lecturer: Jen Singh


Week 4: 9/8
Gender and Science
Guest Lecturer: Carol Colatrella


Week 5: 9/15
Actor-Network Theory
Guest Lecturer: Yanni Loukissas


Week 6: 9/22
Artifacts and Politics
Guest Lecturer: Nassim JafariNaimi


Week 7: 9/29
Philosophy of Technology
Guest Lecturer: Michael Hoffmann


Week 8: 10/6
Justice
Guest Lecturer: Susan Cozzens


Week 9 – Midterm Break – No Class

Week 10: 10/20
Design
Guest Lecturer: Carl DiSalvo


Week 11: 10/27
Technology, Innovation and Political Economy
Guest Lecturer: Steve Usselman

Nathan Rosenberg, “Problem’s in the Economist’s Conceptualization of Technological Change,” in his Perspectives on Technology, Chapter 4.
Week 12: 11/3
Topic: Disability and Accommodation
Guest Lecturer: Nathan Moon


Week 13: 11/10
Energy in Economic History
Guest Lecturer: Juan Moreno-Cruz


Week 14: 11/17
Values, Interests, and Commercialization in Academic Research
Guest Lecturer: Justin Biddle

Richard Rudner (1953), "The Scientist Qua Scientist Makes Value Judgments," Philosophy of Science 20: 1-6
Justin Biddle and Rebecca Kukla, TBD

Week 15: 11/24
Science Fiction as STS
Guest Lecturer: Lisa Yaszek

Istvan Csicer-Ronay, Jr. "Imaginary Science." The Seven Beauties of Science Fiction.
Donna Haraway, “Cyborg Manifesto.”
Sheriann Lewitt, "A Real Girl"
William Gibson, "Johnny Mnemonic"
CL Moore, "No Woman Born"

Week 16: 12/1: Wrap-up class

Take-home Exam due Tuesday, December 8, at 6pm