Science and Technology Studies (STS) is an interdisciplinary field that merges approaches from a variety of disciplines like history, sociology, anthropology, economics and literature, to understand the role of science and technology in society as well as the influence of society on science and technology. This course examines central topics, debates and theoretical perspectives in STS. It consists of guest lecturers/discussion leaders from a variety of schools in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts who introduce students to a number of STS topics and approaches as well as to those faculty who conduct research in STS. It is the core course required for the Graduate Certificate in Science, Technology and Society.

Requirements/Grading(each worth 1/3 of final grade):

1. **Class Participation/Attendance**  
   This is a seminar that requires active student participation. Students should carefully read texts before class and be prepared for lively and sophisticated discussion.

2. **Weekly Reading Responses**  
   Students are required to write a weekly journal response of about 300-500 words and post them on the blog section of T-Square; it should be posted 24 hours before class (Monday by 6 pm). The entries should demonstrate students have done the reading, have reflected on the reading and how it relates to earlier readings/discussions and broader STS issues. Finally, the entry should include questions you’d like to raise in class.

3. **Take Home Exam/Alternative Paper**  
   One mandatory comprehensive question and one specific with a number to choose from. 1500 words each. [Please note, if a student has a project they would like to work on that would incorporate issues from the class, they may consult with the professor to do a paper instead of a take home exam]

Readings & Format:

There are no required textbooks for this course. Each faculty member provides pdf’s of articles that are posted on the T-Square website. If the student wishes to peruse some key texts as background (and these are in no way required), I recommend: Jasanoff, S., G. Markle, J.C. Petersen, and T. Pinch (eds), *Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*. Beverly Hills: Sage, 1993.
*Guest lectures will lead the first two hours of class focusing on the readings, the convener, the last hour, which pulls together the topics and how they relate to early readings.

**Course Objectives:**

- To examine key themes in STS from a variety of disciplinary perspectives
- To understand the way in which social, historical, economic and cultural factors affect science and technology
- To read the main foundational texts in the field of STS
- To communicate orally and writing about these issues
- To be exposed, and make contacts with, faculty across Ivan Allen College who do STS type work

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will learn how to think about the role of science in society drawing on a variety of disciplines
- Students will learn how to read critically & improve their writing
- Students will be able to understand the role of science and technology in society

**Georgia Tech Honor Code:**

Plagiarism and cheating is not tolerated and will be penalized. All students are expected to follow the Georgia Tech honor code. See [www.honor.gatech.edu](http://www.honor.gatech.edu)

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is required.

**ADAPTS accommodation is available for students with disabilities:**
http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/
Schedule

Week 1: 22 August
Introduction to Course
  What is STS?
  Syllabus Review

Week 2: 29 August
Guest Lecturer: Anne Pollock (LMC)
Introduction to STS

Bruno Latour, “Introduction: Opening Pandora’s Black Box” and “Part 1: From
Weaker to Stronger Rhetoric,” from Science in Action. How to Follow Scientists and

Steven Shapin and Simon Schaffer, “Seeing and Believing,” from Leviathan and the

Donna Haraway, “Modest_Witness@Second_Millenium,” from
Modest_Witness@Second_Millenium.FemaleMan©_Meets_OncoMouse™, (Routledge

Anne Pollock, “Places of Pharmaceutical Knowledge-Making,” Social Studies of
Science 44.6 (December 2014): 848-873.

Week 3: 5 September
Guest Lecturer: Eric Schatzberg (HSOC)
History of Technology

Edgerton, David. “From Innovation to Use: Ten Eclectic Theses on the Historiography of
Technology.” History and Technology, 16:2, 11-136.

Ruth Oldenziel, Adri Albert de la Bruhèze & Onno de Wit. “Europe’s Mediation
Junction: Technology and Consumer Society in the 20th Century.” History and
Technology, Vol. 21, Iss. 1, 2005, 107-139.

Heßler, Martina. “The Frankfurt Kitchen: the Model of Modernity and the “Madness” of
2008, Pps. 163-184

Technology and Culture, 47.3 (2006), 486-512.

Week 4: 12 September
Guest Lecturer: Nassim JafariNaimi
Artifacts


Week 5: 19 September
Guest Lecturer: Jennifer Singh (HSOC)
Styles of Thought & Sociology of Medicine


Week 6: 26 September
Guest Lecturer: Carol Colatrella (LMC)
Gender and Science


**Week 7: 3 October**

**Guest Lecturer: Matt Ventresca (HSOC)**

**Sociology, Bio-Medicine and Brain Injuries**


**Week 8: 10 October**

**Fall RECESS- No Class**

**Week 9: 17 October**

**Guest Lecturers: Carl Di Salvo/Yanni Loukissas**

**Design**


Week 10: 24 October
Guest Lecturer: Robert Rosenberger (PubPol)
Philosophy of Technology


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Week 11: 31 October
Guest Lecturer: Germán Vergara (HSOC)
STS & the Environment


Week 12: 7 November
Guest Lecturer: Kenneth Knoespel (LMC)
Bruno Latour in Action


Latour, B. ‘Crisis’ (Chapter 1) and ‘Constitution’ (Chapter 2), *We Have Never Been Modern* (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1993)

Latour, B. ‘An Exciting Innovation’ (Chapter 1), *Aramis or the Love of Technology* (Cambridge, Harvard Univ. Press, 1996)


Week 13: 14 November
Guest Lecturer: Lisa Yaszek
Science Fiction


Istvan Csicery-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 14: 21 November
Guest Lecturer: Mary Fox (Public Policy) & Willie Pearson (HSOC)
Sociology of Science/ Gender, Science and Equity


**Week 15: 28 November**

**Guest Lecturer: Steve Usselman**  
**Technology, Innovation and Political Economy**

Nathan Rosenberg, “Problem's in the Economist’s Conceptualization of Technological Change,” in his Perspectives on Technology, Chapter 4.


Recommended: excerpts from the Introduction to Olmstead and Rhode's recent book (PDF)

**And Wrap up**

**Week 16: 5 December**

Last Day of Class, Party, Final Exam Due