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

Preliminary Fall 2016 Syllabus - as of August 23 2016
Course Meets: Wednesdays 5:05-7:55
Location: Skiles 343
Convener: Anne Pollock, apollock@gatech.edu
Office Hours: Skiles 360, Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:30-2:30 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. This course 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. 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 Tuesday at 5pm). 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.

Notes on Format and 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 one week in advance of the class for which they are assigned.
- Guest lecturers lead the first two hours of class, which generally focus on the readings for that day. After a short break, the convener leads the remaining discussion, generally highlighting connections across weeks.

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: 8/24
Introduction to the Course

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

Week 2: 8/31 [professor at 4S]
The Social Construction of Truth - The Social Construction of Technology
Guest Lecturers: John Krige and Jenny Smith


Week 3: 9/7
Artifacts and Politics
Guest Lecturer: Nassim JafariNaimi


JafariNaimi, Nassim, “Exposing the Myth of Algorithmic Morality, or Why Self-Driving Cars Must *Not* Be Programmed to Kill,” in draft.

Week 4: 9/14
Paradigms and Thought Styles
Guest Lecturer: Jen Singh


Week 5: 9/21
Gender and Science
Guest Lecturer: Carol Colatrella


Jahren, Hope, Lab Girl, selections

Colatrella, Carol, “Feminism Meets Fiction: Seven Novels Featuring Women Scientists,” in draft.

Week 6: 9/28
Biomedicine
Guest Lecturer: Matt Ventresca


Week 7: 10/5 – Racism and Health in the South Event Replaces Class
3pm-5pm, Clary Theater, Student Success Center


Week 8: 10/12
Philosophy of Technology: Postphenomenology
Guest Lecturer: Robert Rosenberger


Week 9: 10/19
Inequality
Guest Lecturer: Susan Cozzens
Readings TBD

Week 10: 10/26
Economics
Guest Lecturers: Steve Usselman and Juan Moreno-Cruz
Readings TBD
Week 11: 11/2
Design
Guest Lecturers: Carl DiSalvo and Yanni Loukissas
Readings TBD

Week 12: 11/9
Information Technologies and International Development
Guest Lecturer: Neha Kumar
Readings TBD

Week 13: 11/16
Science Fiction as STS
Guest Lecturer: Lisa Yaszek
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: 11/23 – Thanksgiving – No class

Week 15: 11/30: Wrap-up class

Take-home Exam due Friday, December 2, 11:59pm