**SOCI 3380/INTS 4388: Science & Technology in Society**

**Summer 2017**

Instructor: Professor David Arditi

Meets UH 104

MoTuWeTh 10:30AM - 12:30PM

contact information

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Description of Course Content

While we often discuss what technology and science do for people, we often forget to talk about the social relations that produce science and technology. Furthermore, we spend more time making scientific fact controversial than we spend discussing what seems to be the uncontroversial application of science and technology in everyday life. This course will explore the social relations that underpin the creation and deployment of science and technology. The construction of scientific knowledge can be analyzed as a social process and the products themselves as social entities.

This course introduces students to the complex relationship between society, and science and technology. Students will learn historical perspectives on the production and deployment of scientific knowledge. The course will use a critical approach to examine the social, cultural, and ethical impact of scientific and technological developments. It will also discuss the role of democracy in the advancement of science and technology.

## Students will demonstrate the ability to:

* examine science and technology through a critical theoretical framework
* situate science and technology within social relations
* recognize the ways in which science and technology are shaped by, and help to shape, society and culture.
* debate how to control science and technology through democratic means

## Textbook and Other Course Materials Requirements

Books for purchase:

* Bauchspies, Wenda K., Jennifer Croissant, and Sal Restivo. 2005. *Science, Technology, and Society: A Sociological Approach*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
* Johnson, Deborah G. and Jameson M. Wetmore, Eds. (2009) *Technology and Society: Building Our Sociotechnical Future* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press). ISBN 978-0-262-60073-6
* Other Readings on Blackboard

Grading Policy

The following scale will be applied to both individual assignments and to the course grade as a whole:

**A= 90-100** points. An “A” reflects consistent excellence in the course, strong initiative, and the student’s commitment to their own learning and success.

**B=80-89** points. A “B” reflects work that is consistently above the minimum.

**C=70-79** points. A “C” reflects minimum proficiency in the main objectives of the course needed to proceed to INTS 4391.

**D=60-69** points. A “D” reflects the fact that a student has not mastered material essential for success in INTS 4391 or has not given the instructor a sufficient basis for judgment because of unexcused failure to complete course work.

**F=<60** points. A failing grade will typically reflect missed assignments, academic honesty violations, and/or a lack of engagement with the course.

Grading rubrics will be made available for each assignment and will be posted in electronic form on the Blackboard page for each assignment. Students should consider the rubrics as guidelines for the expectations of the assignment and be aware that their grade will depend on fulfilling the criteria set forward in the rubric.

The student’s grade for the course will be based on the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Individual** | **Value** |
| Object Description | 10 |
| Paper Proposal | 10 |
| Synthesis Paper | 20 |
| Final Paper | 40 |
| Participation/Quizzes | 20 |
| **Total**  | **100** |

**Late Work Policy**

This course moves sequentially to build research skills; work cannot be made up late without compromising the research process. Therefore late work is strongly discouraged:

* All due dates on the syllabus are firm and are defined to the minute.
* **Written Assignments may be turned in up to one day after the due date with an automatic 10 point**. Late assignments reduce your margin for error to pass the course.
* **Exceptions may be made when students present documentation of an unforeseeable, significant, and unavoidable situation that prevented their completion of the assignment on time.**

**The Instructor reserves the right to modify assignments with due notice.**

**COURSE CALENDAR—Summer 2017**

\*Note – Reading assignments should be done by the day that they are listed on the syllabus

6/5 Monday

* What is STS?
* Review of syllabus, course expectations and design

6/6 Tuesday

**Understanding Science, Technology and Society**

* Introduction to *Science, Technology, and Society (STS)* (p.1-17)
* Chapter 2 – Cultures of Science - *STS* (p.19-47)

6/7 Wednesday

* Chapter 3 – The Dance of Truth – *STS*
* “Technology and Social Justice” – Freeman Dyson in *Technology and Science* (*TS*) (p.5)

6/8 Thursday

**Technological Determinism**

* Introduction to Part II in *TS* (p.93-95)
* “Do Machines Make History?” – Robert Heilbroner in *TS* (p.97)

6/12 Monday

* “The Social Construction of Facts and Artifacts” – Pinch and Bijker in *TS* (p.107)

6/13 Tuesday

* “Where are the Missing Masses? The Sociology of a Few Mundane Artifacts” – Latour in *TS* (p.151)

6/14 Wednesday

* “Code is Law” – Lawrence Lessig in *TS* (p.181)

6/15 Thursday

* Chapter 4 – STS and Power in the Postmodern World - *STS* (p.73-101)
* **Object Description Due**

6/19 Monday

**Mediation**

* “Medium is the Message” - Marshall McLuhan

6/20 Tuesday

* “On technical Mediation” – Bruno Latour
* “Which politics for which artifacts?” – Bruno Latour

6/21 Wednesday

**Gender, Race, Religion and STS**

* “The Intersection of Culture, Gender, and Technology” – Patrick Hopkins in *TS* (p.195)
* “The Feminization of Work in the Information Age” – Judy Wajcman in TS (p.459)

6/22 Thursday

* **Paper Proposal Due**

6/26 Monday

* “Manufacturing Gender in Commercial and Military Cockpit Design” – Rachel Weber in *TS* (p.265)
* “Bodies, Machines, and Male Power” – Carme Alemany Gomez in TS (p.389)

6/27 Tuesday

* “White” – Richard Dyer in *TS* (p.257)
* Physiognomy’s New Clothes (racism in machine learning) – [https://medium.com/@blaisea/physiognomys-new-clothes-f2d4b59fdd6a](https://medium.com/%40blaisea/physiognomys-new-clothes-f2d4b59fdd6a)
* “‘[A white mask worked better’: why algorithms are not colour blind](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/may/28/joy-buolamwini-when-algorithms-are-racist-facial-recognition-bias?CMP=share_btn_link)” – from the Guardian

6/28 Wednesday

* “Amish Technology: Reinforcing Values and Building Community” – Jameson Wetmore in *TS* (p.297)

6/29 Thursday

**Democracy**

* Introduction to Part IV in *TS* – “The Complex Nature of Sociotechnical Systems”

7/3 Monday

* “Will Small be Beautiful? Making Policies for our Nanotech Future” – Patrick McCray in *TS* (p.323)
* “Sociotechnical Complexity: Redesigning a Shielding Wall” – Dominique Vinck in *TS* (p.355)
* Watch in Class – Climate of Doubt - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/climate-of-doubt/>

7/5 Wednesday

* “People’s Science in Action: The Politics of Protest and Knowledge Brokering in India” – Roopali Phadke in *TS* (p.499)
* “Questioning Surveillance and Security” – Torin Monahan in *TS* (p.537)

7/6 Thursday

* **Synthesis Essay Due**
* Vincent Mosco – <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/can-internet-things-be-democratized>
* Watch in Class – United States of Secrets - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/united-states-of-secrets/>

**July 10, Monday**

**FINAL PAPER DUE by 12:30pm**

## Drop Policy

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Academic Dishonesty

**Academic Integrity:** students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services Available:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

ADA and Title IX

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

E-Culture Policy

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey

At the end of each term, students will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Final Review Week

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located as discussed in class. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.