Science, Technology, and Society: Core Seminar  
HTS6743/LMC6743/SPBP6743  

Preliminary Fall 2013 Syllabus - as of August 18, 2013  

Course Meets: Tuesdays 6-9pm  
Location: Skiles Room 343  
Convener: Anne Pollock, apollock@gatech.edu  
Office Hours: Skiles 360, Wednesdays 10am-noon 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.  

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.
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.
- Most readings will available as PDFs on T-Square or at links provided in the syllabus. Exceptions are two plays and a novel, Wit by Margaret Edson, Miss Evers Boys by David Feldshuh, and Neuromancer by William Gibson. These are widely available from libraries and online.

Week 1: 8/20
Introduction to the Course

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

Week 2: 8/27
The Social Construction of Truth - The Social Construction of Technology
Guest Lecturers: John Krige and Jenny Smith


Week 3: 9/3
Actor-Network Theory
Guest Lecturer: Hugh Crawford


Week 4: 9/10
Feminism, Inequality and Science
Guest Lecturer: Wenda Bauchspies


**Week 5: 9/17**

**Philosophy of Technology**

**Guest Lecturer: Robert Rosenberger**


**Week 6: 9/24**

**Artifacts and Politics**

**Guest Lecturer: Kristie Macrakis**


Week 7: 10/1
Justice
Guest Lecturer: Susan Cozzens


Week 8: 10/8
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 9: 10/15 – Midterm Break – No Class

Week 10: 10/22
Paradigms
Guest Lecturer: Bob Wood

Selections from Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962)
Additional Readings TBD

Week 11: 10/29
Design
Guest Lecturer: Carl DiSalvo


Week 12: 11/5
Biomedicine
Guest Lecturer: Jennifer Singh

Michel Foucault, Excerpts from *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction*.


Biomedical applications of new genetic technologies


Deborah Heath, Rayna Rapp and Karen-Sue Taussig, “Genetic Citizenship,” from *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics* edited by David Nugent and Joan Vincent (pp. 152 – 167)


Week 13: 11/12
Values, Interests, and the Commercialization of Academic Research
Guest Lecturer: Justin Biddle


Additional readings TBD

Week 14: 11/19
Cultural Perspectives on Medical Practice and Research
Guest Lecturer: Carol Colatrella


Week 15: 11/26
Science Fiction as STS
Guest Lecturer: Lisa Yaszek


Istvan Csicer-Ronay, Jr. “Imaginary Science.” The Seven Beauties of Science Fiction.

Donna Haraway, “Cyborg Manifesto.”

William Gibson, Neuromancer.

Week 16: 12/3: Final Exam Due 2pm