ANTHROPOLOGY 455/655: INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

Spring 2003
Sewall Hall 562
Monday 2-5

Instructors:

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Introduction:
This class is an introduction to the field of "Science and Technology Studies." The premise of this field is that science and technology are an integral part of contemporary societies — just as culture, politics and economics are built in to contemporary science. Science, technology and society may therefore be analyzed together, using methods and theories of the social sciences and humanities. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of this interdisciplinary field by reading research and theoretical works drawn from anthropology, history, sociology and philosophy; some of the major innovations in the field will be studied in depth. The class will simultaneously analyze examples and problems that illustrate how to apply these works to the contemporary world. Examples will span a wide range of disciplines from computer science to biomedicine, but no prior scientific knowledge or technical expertise is assumed. The goal is for students to become skilled at analyzing science and technology from a social and cultural standpoint, and to cross some of the assumed and traditional boundaries between scientists, humanists and social scientists.

Open to advanced undergraduates and graduate students.


Required Texts:


1 Society in Science

- Jan. 13 Introduction
  Case Study: Triple Vaccination and Autism; Selected Articles.
- Jan. 20 MLK Day, No class
- Jan. 27: Science Made and Science in the Making
  
  **Required:**
  Case study: Prions

  **Optional:**
  at http://www.ensmp.fr/~latour/artpop/P-95%20Darmstadt.html

2 Science in Society

- Feb. 3: Risks, expertise and credibility
  
  **Required:**
  Case Study: GM Foods

  **Optional:**
  Journals: *Social Studies of Science, Science Technology and Human Values*

3 Technology in Science

- Feb 10: The three technologies of science and politics
  
  **Required:**


- Feb. 17 Literary Technologies I (representation)

**Required:**


**Optional:**


Journals: *Science in Context, Critical Inquiry, Common Knowledge, Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science*

- Feb. 24 Literary Technologies II (narrative)

**Required:**


**Optional:**


Hayles, N. Katherine *The cosmic web: scientific field models and literary strategies in the twentieth century*, Ithaca : Cornell University Press, 1984


Journal: *Configurations*

- Mar 3. Social Technologies

**Required:**


(Shorter version: “Inhaling The Spore. Field trip to a museum of natural (un)history.” Harper’s. 289, no. 1732, (September 1994)

**Optional:**


- March 10. Spring Break

- Mar 17: Material Technologies

**Required:**


**Optional:**


4 Order and Disorder

- March 24. Science and Political orders
  
  Required:
  1. Shapin and Schaffer, *Leviathan and the Air Pump*. chs. 3 and 7-8. (Chapter 4 optional).

Optional:

- March 31: No class First draft of research paper due.

- April 7: Stats and Status
  
  Required:

Optional:

- April 14 Citizenships
  
  Required:
• April 21 Cont’d

Other Important Information:
Incompletes are not given.

Honor Code issues: For the assignments, group investigation and research is encouraged, but each assignment handed in must be the student’s own original work. In the case of group assignments, division of labor will be up to the students, and any necessary honor code guidelines will be provided.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.