MCC-GE 3154 Special Topics in Technology Studies:
Science and Technology Studies (STS)
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Course Description
This course provides a graduate-level introduction to the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS). We will survey the ways scholars in STS—whose research methods range from historical epistemology to medical anthropology to the sociology of science—have understood the natural world, technical systems, human perception, and the social order to be co-produced. Following Bruno Latour, throughout the course we will investigate “matters of fact” as always “matters of concern.”

Course readings begin with classics in the critical theory of technoscience—including Kuhn, Heidegger, Foucault, Marx, and Whitehead—before turning to canonical readings in the field of STS proper as well as challenges posed by feminist and postcolonial science studies. Specific topics will include: the sociology of knowledge; the “science wars”; lay expertise; biopolitics; actor-network theory; the politics of technical design; and relations between humans and nonhumans (whether machines or other animals).

Course Schedule
Week 1   Introduction: What is STS?
Week 2   Early Influences
Week 3   Critical Theories of Technoscience
Week 4   Kuhn and Fleck
Week 5   Archaeology and Genealogy
Week 6   History of STS
Week 7   Canonical Articles
Week 8   The Science Wars and the Social Construction Debates
Week 9   Politics of Technology (Artifacts, Experts, Users, and Social Movements)
Week 10  Methods
Week 11  Historical Epistemology of Science
Week 12  The Anthropology and Sociology of Biopolitics and Biomedicine
Week 13  Actor-Network Theory
Week 14  Theories and Challenges
Week 15  Feminist Science Studies
Week 16  Global and Postcolonial STS
Week 17  Animal Studies as Science Studies
Week 18  Recent Experiments in STS
Week 19  Digital Methods
Week 20  Experiments in STS Writing