

ANT 261: Science, Policy, and Society  
Spring 2013: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 - 10:20 am, Chambers 1027

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Office Hours: M, W, F 10:30 – 11:30 am  
T, Th 9:00 – 10:00 am or by appointment  
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How do scientific theories and methodologies, religious beliefs and practices, and technological innovations affect the way we perceive the world around us? This course, an introduction to Science, Technology and Society (STS) studies, is designed to be an inquiry into questions that involve the production and cultural meanings of scientific knowledge and technological change. This course will compare the function and rhetoric of scientific “truths” to other modes of truth-production and consider the ways in which science is culturally produced and in turn reproductive of cultural norms in Western society, including the adoption of Western scientific practices and institutions by non-Western societies and the management of science and technology in social and economic practices.

The impact of the specificity of social and cultural environments on science will be explored at a number of different levels including theoretical models from STS and other disciplines, ethnographic and historical case studies, and reflections by scientists on their practices of science. Because it lies at the intersection of science and policy, most of the case studies draw from environmental studies.

### Course Readings

#### Required Texts:

- Biagioli, Mario ed. 1999. *The Science Studies Reader* New York: Routledge. (ISBN: 0415918685)
- Tambiah, Stanley J 1990. *Magic, Science, Religion, and the Scope of Rationality* New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN: 0521376319)
- Edwards, Paul N. 2010. *A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming*. Cambridge: MIT Press. (ISBN: 0262013924)
- Helmreich, Stefan 2009. *Alien Ocean: Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (ISBN: 0520250621)
- Schurman, Rachel and William Munro 2010. *Fighting for the Future of Food: Activists versus Agribusiness in the Struggle over Biotechnology*. (ISBN: 0816647623)

In addition to the above books, various articles will be required. These articles are available from Blackboard, and are to be completed by the date assigned on the course schedule.

## Course Requirements

This course is not an introduction to anthropology, and students are expected to have some background in science, anthropology or social theory and methodology.

### **Class Participation: 15%**

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. I am not a TV; discussions in class are an important part of exploring anthropological topics. Remember, there is no such thing as a dumb question or comment – if you do not understand something that I present in class, do not hesitate to either ask me in class or find me during office hours.

### **5 Response Papers: 10%**

You will write five (5) response papers throughout the term, no more than two pages and double-spaced. They will be graded ( $\sqrt{+}$ ,  $\sqrt{}$ ,  $\sqrt{-}$ ) and require timely submission for full credit. Response papers will serve as a diagnostic for me to help me see how much you understand the reading and the concepts that we will discuss in class.

### **1 Review Essay (take-home): 20%**

There will also be one short essay (no more than five pages) that will give students the opportunity to explore the theoretical and social implications of the classroom material. For these essays, no outside research is required. The essay will be due 11 February 2013.

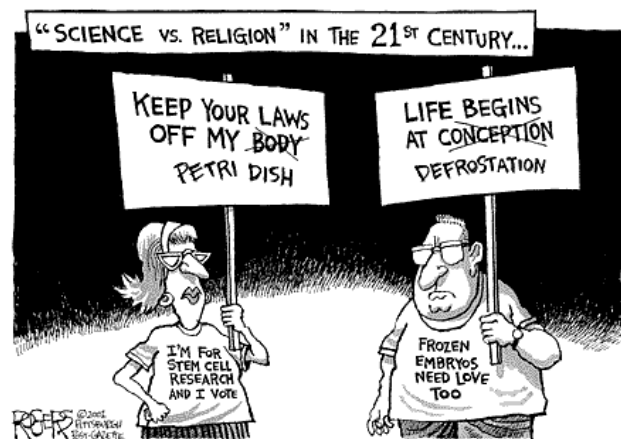
### **Final Research Project (proposal and final paper): 55%**

There will also be a final research essay (12-15 pages) based on a topic that students will select. This essay may include outside research, library or fieldwork based. Students will submit a proposal and bibliography (worth 10% of the grade) on 18 February 2013 and a literature review (worth 15% of the grade) on 18 March 2013. The final essay, **due 8 May 2013**, is worth 30% of the final grade.

**Submission of Writing Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted to me electronically by email. If you are not using Microsoft Word, please save the file as in “rich text format.” If you have any questions about how to submit assignments, please see me individually.

For an explanation of how I grade and my teaching philosophies, please read the material on my website in the “Teaching Philosophy” section.

While students working with each other outside of class is highly encouraged, all graded, written work must be your own and pledged accordingly. All work is subject to the Davidson College



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Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

Class Schedule (subject to modification)

Monday, 14 January	Introduction
Wednesday, 16 January	<b>Reading:</b> Ch 1, Ch 3, Using Science as Evidence in Public Policy The Precautionary Principle in Environmental Science article (on Moodle)
Friday, 18 January	<b>Reading:</b> Gould article; Barbour article (on Moodle)
Monday, 21 January	No Class: Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday, 23 January	<b>Reading:</b> Franklin article (Moodle)
Friday, 25 January	<b>Reading:</b> Bourdieu article (Science Studies) <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Monday, 28 January	Science, Religion, and Structures of Thought <b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 1-41
Wednesday, 30 January	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 42-83
Friday, 1 February	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 84-139
Monday, 4 February	<b>Reading:</b> Tambiah, p. 140-154
Wednesday, 6 February	<b>Reading:</b> Daston article (Science Studies); Latour article (Science Studies ch. 19)
Friday, 8 February	<b>Reading:</b> Cetina article (Blackboard ); Latour article (ch. 18)
Monday, 11 February	<b>Reading:</b> Porter essay (Science Studies); Rotman essay (Science Studies) <b>Assignment:</b> First Short Essay Due
Wednesday, 13 February	Case Study: The Politics of Global Warming <b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Introduction, Ch. 1
Friday, 15 February	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 2-3
Monday, 18 February	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 4-6 <b>Assignment:</b> Research Paper Proposal Due
Wednesday, 20 February	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 7-8
Friday, 22 February	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 9-10
Monday, 25 February	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 11-12 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Wednesday, 27 February	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch. 13-14

Friday, 1 March	<b>Reading:</b> Edwards, Ch 15-Conclusion
4 -8 March	No Class: Have a good Spring Break!
Monday, 11 March	More from Science, Technology, and Society <b>Reading:</b> Kay article (Science Studies)
Wednesday, 13 March	<b>Reading:</b> Rabinow article (Science Studies) <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Friday, 15 March	<b>Reading:</b> Rouse article (Science Studies)
Monday, 18 March	<b>Reading:</b> Turkle article (Science Studies) <b>Assignment:</b> Literature Review Due
Wednesday, 20 March	<b>Reading:</b> Fox Keller article; Haraway article (Science Studies)
Friday, 22 March	<b>Reading:</b> Traweek article (Science Studies)
Monday, 25 March	<b>Reading:</b> Martin article (Science Studies); Barad article (Science Studies)
Wednesday, 27 March	<b>Reading:</b> Callon article (Science Studies); Silverman article (Moodle) Backstrand article (Moodle)
Friday, 29 March	Case Study 2: Making Science <b>Reading:</b> Helmreich, Introduction – Ch. 1
Monday, 1 April	No Class: Easter Break
Wednesday, 3 April	<b>Reading:</b> Helmreich, Ch. 2-3
Friday, 5 April	<b>Reading:</b> Helmreich, Ch. 4-5 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Monday, 8 April	<b>Reading:</b> Helmreich, Ch. 6-7
Wednesday, 10 April	<b>Film:</b> Contact (1997)
Friday, 12 April	<b>Film:</b> Contact (1997)
Monday, 15 April	<b>Film:</b> Contact (1997)
Wednesday, 17 April	<b>Reading:</b> Whitehead essay (Moodle); McGrath essay (Moodle)
Friday, 19 April	<b>Reading:</b> Selections from Star Trek and Sacred Ground (Moodle)
Monday, 22 April	<b>Discussion:</b> Science and Popular Culture

Wednesday, 24 April	Case Study 3: Science, Industry, and Activists <b>Reading:</b> Clapp article (Moodle); Schurman and Munro, Introduction and Chapter 1
Friday, 26 April	<b>Reading:</b> Schurman and Munro, Chapter 2-3
Monday, 29 April	<b>Reading:</b> Schurman and Munro, Chapter 4-5 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Wednesday, 1 May	<b>Reading:</b> Schurman and Munro, Chapter 6, Conclusion
Friday, 3 May	Last Day of Class
Wednesday, 8 May	<b>Assignment:</b> Final Papers Due

