This course is designed to provide newcomers to S&TS an overview of some of the major themes and issues in the field, and an opportunity to investigate how scholars in the field go about their work.

Requirements: In addition to active participation in weekly class discussions, after the first few weeks of the course, students will sign up to lead discussion on particular topics. All students will be expected to prepare in advance of each class a 2-3 page synopsis of the week’s reading, identifying arguments, common themes, oppositions, and issues worthy of further consideration. The roster of reading assignments below lists required and recommended sources. Students should read required sources in preparation for class discussion on the day they are listed. Recommended sources can enhance participation in discussions, and are listed for further reference (for example, for term papers for this course and for later reading).

A term paper is required of at least 5,000 words. It should synthesize some of the issues encountered in the course, and bring them to bear on a relevant topic of the student’s choosing. The deadline will be at the end of the exam week (exact date TBA).

The library’s e-journals collection can be used for many required articles on the syllabus, while copies of other required readings (and some additional sources that are not required) will be available through Blackboard: http://blackboard.cornell.edu. For major books used in the course (Kuhn; Shapin & Schaffer; Latour & Woolgar; Biagioli’s Reader), it would be a good idea to purchase copies online or through the bookstore. Most recommended books and articles will not be distributed for the class, but most should be available through the library.

Tentative Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

August 27 Organizational Meeting

Be sure to read the syllabus and visit the course site on: http://blackboard.cornell.edu/
September 3  Background in History, Philosophy & Sociology of Science

Required:


Recommended:


**September 10**

**Kuhn’s Revolution in History & Philosophy of Science**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


September 17  The Strong Programme and Related Developments in SSK

Required:


Recommended:


September 24  A Classic Exemplar of SSK

Required:

For Shapin and Schaffer’s explanation of the methodological connection with SSK and laboratory studies, you can listen to an episode on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio program, 'How to Think about Science.' It is available at: http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/episodes/2009/01/02/how-to-think-about-science-part-1-24-listen/#episode1

Recommended:


October 1 Laboratory Studies

Required:


Recommended:


October 8  Actor-Network Theory and After

Required:


Recommended:


October 15  Practices, Movement, and Boundaries in Science & Technology Studies

Required:


**Recommended:**


**October 22 Technology: Sociological and Historical Approaches**

**Required:**


Recommended:


**October 29  Gender as an Analytical Category**

Required:


**Recommended:**


**November 5 Non-Western, Colonial, Postcolonial, and Global Technoscience**

**Required:**


Recommended:

November 12  Digital STS? – Data, Methods, Devices, Design

Required:


Recommended:

Peter Slezak (1989) ‘Scientific Discovery by Computer as Empirical Refutation of the Strong Programme,’ Social Studies of Science 19(4): 563–600. [See also the responses by Collins, Fuller, Woolgar, and (again) Slezak in the same issue.]


**November 19**

**Politics of Expertise**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**December 3**

**The Politics in and of STS**

**Required:**


Recommended:


