

Science, Technology, and Society (STAS) 201 – Lecture 01
Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society
Fall 2013
Tues and Thur 12:30-13:45

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Feng
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Office Hours: Thursdays 14:00-15:00
or by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Science, Technology, and Society. Using an inquiry-based learning approach, students will investigate topics relating to the social, political, and cultural dimensions of science and technology. We will study how science and technology have developed historically and some of the social, legal, and ethical issues raised by these developments.

Each year, a particular topic or theme is chosen through which we investigate the role and influence of science and technology on society. This year's theme is food.

Objectives of the Course

The goals of this course are to:

1. Gain an understanding of how contemporary science and technology work;
2. Learn about the ways in which science, technology, and society influence one another;
3. Develop reading, writing, and research skills;
4. Reflect critically on the relationship between science and its various publics.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students are welcome to bring laptops and other devices to class so long as these are used to aid student learning. During class, it is not acceptable to play games, answer email, surf the web, or engage in other non-class activities. Not only do such practices negatively affect you, they also distract other students and undermine our goal of creating a respectful learning environment.

Textbooks and Readings:

There are two books for this course:

- Wayne Roberts, *The No-Nonsense Guide to Food* (Between the Lines, 2008)
- Colin Beavan, *No Impact Man* (McClelland and Stewart, 2009) [recommended]

Additional readings will be made available via Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation

Students will be graded based on following components:

- Critical reflections (2 @ 25%) 50% due Oct 3 and Nov 14
- Inquiry module
 - Annotated bibliography 15% due Oct 31
 - Group presentation 15% last two weeks of term
 - Written report 15% last two weeks of term
 - Process 5% ongoing

Note there is no final exam for this course.

Brief description of assignments

- **Critical reflections:** Students will write two medium length (~1000 words) reflections based on topics discussed in class. As part of their reflections, students are expected to summarize and critically assess course materials and relate these to their own experiences.
- **Inquiry module:** This course involves inquiry-based learning, which means students will engage in self-directed, problem-based research as part of their learning experience. Over the course of the term we will turn our attention to current scientific issues and engage in a series of **inquiry exercises**. Briefly, this involves brainstorming, doing research in small groups, writing up your results, and presenting these findings to your classmates. You will work in groups for this assignment.

Students will be assessed on the following:

- *Annotated bibliography:* Each student will prepare an annotated bibliography that summarizes and critically analyzes a minimum of five sources that are relevant to the student's research topic.
- *Presentation:* Each group will have 15 minutes to present highlights of their research in class. This may take the form of a traditional presentation or use alternative formats such as skits, videos, wikis, etc.

- *Written report:* Each group will submit a written report that summarizes their research. The report should be 15 pages maximum, not including bibliography.
- *Process:* Students will be assessed on their teamwork, contributions to their group, and overall learning process.

Note: Detailed instructions for each assignment will be available on Blackboard.

Note on inquiry learning: An important part of inquiry learning is that students learn from each other as well as from the instructor. In order to promote this, students are expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and prepared to participate in class discussions.

Note: All assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital

Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A detailed schedule will be handed out on the first day of class.