

**Science Technology and Society (STAS) 591 – Lecture 01**  
**Integrative Seminar**  
**Winter 2013**  
**Tu 14:00 – 16:50**

**Instructor:** Richard Hawkins

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**Location:** SS 306

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:00 – 1:45, Thursdays 9:30 – 10:30, or by appointment

**Course Description**

STAS 591 is an integrative “capstone” seminar that brings together all of the central themes of science and technology studies as encountered by students in the core STAS curriculum. Through a combination of seminars and a final term project, the aim of the course is for students to review and re-evaluate the core concepts of science and technology studies and to gain experience deploying these concepts in the exploration of real-life issues and problems.

**Objectives of the Course**

Review, discuss and contextualize key concepts and themes from the core STAS curriculum.

Prepare term projects that apply the STAS curriculum to real life problems and issues.

Develop advanced presentation and argumentation skills relevant to analysis and critique of science, technology and society issues.

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

It is disruptive to the learning goals of the seminar to engage in electronically enabled activities unrelated to the seminar discussions. Students are reminded to turn mobile telephones and other electronic devices off during the sessions and to use laptops for course-related purposes only.

Students expecting emergency communications during a session are exempted from these provisions upon prior notification of the instructor.

Electronic recording of lectures will be permitted only for students who have a formally diagnosed physical or learning disability that requires this action. Written proof of disclosure of such disabilities to the relevant university administrative bodies will be required before such permission is granted (refer to the Students with Disabilities section below).

Otherwise, students are encouraged to make creative use of media in the seminar whenever they wish, and especially in presentations. Students who may have special

media requirements for seminar presentations other than an Ethernet connection and classroom projector should notify the instructor at least 4 weeks beforehand so that arrangements can be made with Media Services.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

No pre-assigned readings. Students will develop reading lists with the instructor, based in the core STAS curriculum.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

The seminar is directed at preparing a term project on any subject selected by the student that explores a concept and/or issue that is relevant within the broad context of science, technology and society. In consultation with the instructor, projects may take any form that is appropriate to the topic and that allows the student to display knowledge and critical abilities as gained from the STAS curriculum.

The seminar is constructed on three graded assignments:

(1) Annotated bibliography (20%) – In consultation with the instructor and in weekly class discussion meetings, each student will develop and submit an annotated bibliography (5-6 double spaced pages) that integrates materials from the core STAS curriculum as oriented to a specific thematic area. These thematic areas will be identified and developed by the students in weekly class meetings. This bibliography will reference and summarize 8-12 key readings. The bibliography will be evaluated on the accuracy with which different texts are described and upon insights drawn by the students as to how the texts are related to the thematic area of interest.

(2) Seminar presentation (20%) - Each student will present a 40 minute Seminar (20 minute presentation followed by a 20 minute question period), outlining the main points in the annotated bibliography. The student will also introduce the subject of his/her term project and discuss how the materials and ideas in the annotated bibliography will be applied to the term project. The presentation will be evaluated on organization and clarity as well as the ability to respond to questions from the instructor and the class.

(3) Term project (50%) – Each student will prepare a term project consisting of:

- a term paper (15-20 pages excluding figures and bibliography) (40%)
- an oral presentation (20 minute presentation, 20 minute question period) (20%)

The term paper will be evaluated on the basis that it demonstrates familiarity with core concepts and materials from the core STAS curriculum, and that it applies these concepts to addressing the practical issue or problem chosen by the student.

All term project documentation is due on the final day of class.

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 SS110; 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

### **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://www.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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) 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/compliance/ethics/info/undergrad/>

**Provisional Schedule of Sessions and Readings** (*scheduling of session activities subject to alteration in consultation with students depending upon final enrollment*)

<b>Session</b>	<b>Date</b>	
1	Jan 8	Introduction and organization
2	Jan 15	Introductory lecture/discussion
<b>Block I</b>		<b>Annotated bibliography development</b>
3	Jan 22	Class meetings  Written bibliographies due in class 12 February
4	Jan 29	
5	Feb 5	
6	Feb 12	
Reading week Feb 18-22		
<b>Block II</b>		<b>Final project development</b>
7	Feb 26	Bibliography seminars
8	Mar 5	Bibliography seminars
9	Mar 12	Project development meetings
10	Mar 19	
11	Mar 26	

<b>Final Project Presentations</b>		
12	Ap 2	Term Project Presentations
13	Ap 9	Term Project Presentations All term papers due