

Science, Technology & Society PROGRAM HANDBOOK 2002



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STS staff and contact details

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Tutors

Casually employed lecturers and tutors usually occupy rooms 2052, 2084 or 2087. Your tutor will tell you which room he/she uses for consultations.

Acting Head of Program

Assoc Prof Brian Martin

Honours Coordinator

Dr Stewart Russell

Postgraduate Coordinator

Dr David Mercer

Arts Faculty Enquiry Centre

For general queries, contact (02) 4221 5328

STS websites

http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/sts/

http://www.uow.edu.au/discover/courses/yr2002/dept_ArtSts.html

Science, Technology and Society A valuable part of your University studies and your future

Science, Technology and Society is the interdisciplinary academic field that examines the origins, nature and social impacts of science, technology and medicine, and seeks to inform policies for the future. STS focuses on science and technology – and the scientific or technical dimension in so many important and controversial issues – from the perspectives of the social sciences and humanities. It draws on the concepts and methods of sociologists, historians, political economists, philosophers, psychologists and others. Within the field are several long established disciplines like history of science and history of technology, more recently developed areas of work like sociology of scientific knowledge and political economy of technological change, and sub-fields like science and technology policy analysis which reflect contemporary concerns about the direction, impact and management of science and technology.

Wollongong's STS Program is one of few STS or similar university units in Australia, and in its reputation for teaching, research and scholarship, one of the foremost in the English-speaking world. Several of its staff members and postgraduate students have both a scientific or technological background as well as a training in STS or other social science field, and one of the functions of STS units has traditionally been seen as breaking down a gap between the cultures of, on the one hand, the sciences and engineering, and on the other, the humanities and social sciences. In STS subjects at Wollongong you will encounter people studying a wide range of degrees in almost all the faculties in the University.

A degree with an STS major or a significant STS component will help equip you to play a productive role as a manager of technological change in industry, as a policy analyst in government, as a commentator on scientific and technological controversies in the media, or as a researcher helping us further understand the way science and technology develop and can be shaped to best serve humanity.

In a society in which science and technology are central, at a time when they present crucial problems, extraordinary opportunities and difficult choices, all students should consider studying STS as part of their degrees.

Studying STS at Wollongong

STS can be studied as a major in the BA, the BA/BSc or the BA/BE – leading to the Honours programme – or as a joint major with one of a number of other disciplines. STS subjects are included in several of the interdisciplinary majors in the Arts Faculty, like Resource and Environmental Studies, which can lead to joint honours programmes.

STS subjects, or subjects taught by STS staff, are integrated into several other degrees. Students from most degree courses can select STS subjects or sequences of subjects as electives to complement their major in another area.

Studying STS in the Arts degree

STS Major

A major in STS consists of 60 credit points.

At least 52 credit points must be STS subjects, including either:

- 1) STS100/103/200/203 Social Aspects of Science and Technology or
- 2) STS229/329 Scientific and Technological Controversy

At least 24 credit points of STS must be at 300 level.

An additional 8 credit points may be taken from the following:

Any STS subject (see over page) Australian Studies: Environment and Identity AUST101 **CCS105** Introduction to Communication and Cultural Studies **CCS334** Technologies of the Body Hollywood and American Culture **CCS337** Advances Topics in the History of Science, 1500-1800 HIST338 HIST361 Fascism and the Authoritarian Right in Twentieth Century Europe PHIL256/258 Ethics and the Environment PHIL262 Theories of Knowledge and Metaphysics PHIL322 Knowledge and Metaphysics Politics in a Globalising World **POL121** POL224 Politics and the Media **POL314** Power and the Modern State **SOC104** Communication, Media and Society **SOC231** Introduction to Social Research **SOC241** Culture and Communication

STS subjects are listed on pages 12-18.

If you are considering majoring in STS, or want advice in steering a path through the subjects, see any STS staff member.

See: http://www.uow.edu.au/discover/courses/yr2002/dept_ArtSts.html

Summer Session

The subjects on offer in Summer 2002/2003 will be announced in Spring Session and listed in the University's Summer Session handbook.

Home Study

The STS Program occasionally runs one subject at two levels in Home Study mode:

STS103/203 Social Aspects of Science and Technology (equivalent to the on-campus STS100/200)

This subject may be available in Summer Session 2002/2003.

Home Study mode caters for students who cannot enrol in the on-campus equivalent subject because, for example, of timetabling or geographical constraints. It also allows students to take the subject outside Autumn Session – for example, if they miss STS100/200 in Autumn and wish to take other STS subjects for which it is a pre-requisite the following Autumn.

In Home Study mode, no classes are held. Students are provided with complete subject materials and individual telephone or face-to-face tutoring as required. A set of audio tapes is available which closely follow the material of the subject. The assessment schedule for STS103/203 is slightly different to that for the on-campus equivalent.

Home Study is not recommended for students at the start of their degree programmes, nor for students who have not yet taken on-campus subjects in Arts. The pre-requisites for STS103 and STS203 include one Arts subject.

Contact the STS Program for further information on Home Study.

Honours in STS

Students who complete a major in STS and who achieve an average of at least a Credit grade in their later subjects are encouraged to apply to study STS at Honours level. Honours students undertake a one year full-time or two-year part-time programme: a 12 credit point seminar on theory and methods in STS, a reading subject of 12 credit points, and a thesis of about 15000 words. Students considering Honours in STS are encouraged to talk to the STS Honours Coordinator or the Head of Program well in advance to seek approval for enrolment, discuss their programme, and negotiate a thesis topic and supervisor.

Joint Honours

Students who have completed studies in STS and another discipline accepted as equivalent to a major, and who achieve an average of at least a Credit grade in their later subjects, are encouraged to apply to study for Joint Honours. Students taking an interdisciplinary major which includes a strand in STS may qualify for Joint Honours – for example, the popular STS & Geosciences combination in the Resource and Environmental Studies major can lead to Joint Honours in STS & Geosciences. Joint Honours is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time programme, consisting of components from the Honours programmes of each unit approved by both Heads as forming a coherent programme, including a jointly supervised thesis. Typically the STS coursework component is the 12 credit point Honours theory and methods seminar. Students considering Joint Honours are encouraged to talk to the unit Honours Coordinators or Heads well in advance to seek approval for enrolment, discuss their programme, and negotiate a thesis topic and supervisors.

Postgraduate opportunities

The STS Program offers opportunities for postgraduate study.

The Graduate Diploma in Arts (Science, Technology and Society) is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time course. The Diploma is intended for graduates of any discipline who have little or no background in the social study of science and technology. It is particularly valuable for science or engineering graduates who want to broaden their training and examine the social, political and policy aspects of their work. It may also lead to further postgraduate study in STS and related fields. The programme of study consists of 48 credit points of 200- and 300-level subjects from the STS undergraduate schedule. It may also include an individually supervised research subject. Application forms are available from the Student Enquiry Desk in Building 36. For further details or to discuss an application, please contact the STS Program.

Honours Master of Arts by Research

A thesis embodying the results of a significant and original investigation under the supervision of staff member. The programme of research must be approved by the Head of Program. Candidates for this degree enrol in STS924.

PhD in Science & Technology Studies

A wide variety of areas in the STS field are available for doctoral research. The course is expected to take three years of full-time or six years of part-time study. A limited number of scholarships are available on a competitive basis. Applicants are normally expected to have an honours degree, or a Masters with equivalent research experience, in STS or a related area. Applicants with other backgrounds may be accepted subject to a requirement to undertake coursework in STS during a probationary first year. If you are interested in postgraduate research opportunities in STS, see the University *Postgraduate Calendar*, or contact the STS Program.

STS subjects in other Arts majors

STS subjects are integrated into several interdisciplinary Arts majors, into the majors run by several other Programs, and into other non-major Arts studies areas. For more details, see: http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/undergraduate/index.html

Aboriginal Studies

Students may take STS120 or STS220/221 Technology in Society: East and West to count towards the major.

Asia Pacific Studies

Students may take STS120/220/221 Technology in Society: East and West to count towards the major.

Communication and Cultural Studies

STS240 Technological Change, Popular Culture and New Media is approved for inclusion in the CCS major.

History

The following STS subjects may be counted towards the History major:

STS112/117/212/217 The Scientific Revolution

STS238 Changing Images of Nature and the Environment

STS336 Advanced Topics in the History of Science 1500-1800

Information Studies

Students take STS128/228 Computers in Society as a core subject in the IS major and may take further STS subjects in Strand 4 to form one of two specialist strands.

Politics

Students may apply to the Professor of Politics or nominee to count up to 12 credit points of STS 300-level subjects towards the Politics major. The following subjects are particularly relevant:

STS300 Environmental Context

STS323 Politics of Medicine and Health

STS329 Scientific and Technological Controversy

STS335 The Politics of Risk

STS340 Technological Change, Popular Culture and New Media

Resource and Environmental Studies

Students take

STS116 Environment in Crisis

STS300 The Environmental Context

as core subjects in the RES major and may take further STS subjects in Sequence C to form one of two specialist sequences. This may lead to joint honours in STS and the other discipline. The STS & Geosciences combination is a popular option, and may lead to joint honours (see page 5).

STS subjects to complement other Arts majors

When devising your degree programme, you should consider carefully appropriate electives to complement and extend your major. Aside from those subjects listed above, some of which may be counted towards a major, the STS Program recommends its introductory subject STS100/103/200/203 Social Aspects of Science and Technology and the following additions:

Communication and Cultural Studies

STS128/228 Computers in Society
STS288/388 Science and the Media
STS240/340 Technological Change, Popular Culture and New Media

European Studies

STS112/117/212/217 The Scientific Revolution STS336 Advanced Topics in the History of Science 1500-1800

Resource and Environmental Studies

STS229/329 Scientific & Technological Controversy
STS250/350 From Molecular Genetics to Biotechnology: the Past, Present and Future of Molecular Biology
STS288/388 Science and the Media

Studying STS in other degrees

STS for Science students

The Science Faculty encourages Science students to take STS subjects as electives alongside their Science major. STS subjects can form an ideal complement to your scientific specialisation, helping you understand the social context and implications of your future work. They give you valuable experience in different types of study skills and thinking, and a chance to mix with students from a variety of backgrounds.

You may choose any of the STS subjects listed in this Handbook. You should examine your degree schedule carefully to ensure you have sufficient space for the subjects you choose as electives, and if in doubt, consult your degree coordinator or the Sub-Dean in Science. Make sure you take subject pre-requisites into account when devising a sequence of STS subjects. You are encouraged to discuss your choice of STS subjects with any STS staff member.

Students in the Biotechnology degree must take one, and may take two, STS subjects as electives:

STS100 Social Aspects of Science and Technology

STS250 From Molecular Genetics to Biotechnology: the Past, Present and Future of Molecular Biology

Students in the Bachelor of Environmental Science must take STS300 The Environmental Context.

STS for Engineering students

Engineering students take two subjects – ENGG261 and ENGG461 – in which STS staff members teach and in which the social, policy and management issues in engineering work are discussed. Some other STS subjects are listed as available in particular Engineering degrees – for example, STS216 Environment in Crisis and STS376 The Politics of Risk in the Environmental Engineering degree. In addition, if you have space for electives in your degree schedule, you may choose other STS subjects.

In particular, STS306 Special Topics in the Social and Policy Aspects of Engineering allows Engineering students to follow material from other STS coursework subjects, or by negotiation with the Program an individual or group research project, in a form and with an assessment schedule appropriate to their degree.

You should examine your degree schedule carefully to ensure you have sufficient space for the subjects you choose as electives, and if in doubt, consult your degree coordinator or the Sub-Dean in Engineering. You are encouraged to discuss your choice of STS subjects with any STS staff member.

Students may also discuss with the STS Program Head the possibility of joint supervision in research subjects in the Engineering degree which might involve social or policy as well as technical issues.

STS for Informatics students

Students in the School of Computer, Electrical and Telecommunications Engineering take one subject – ELEC350 – in which STS staff members teach and which examines some of the social, policy and management issues in computer and electrical engineering work.

Students in the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology may take a range of STS subjects as electives:

STS100 Social Aspects of Science and Technology

STS 116 Environment in Crisis

STS221 Technology in Society: East and West

STS228 *Computers in Society*

STS240/241/340 Technological Change, Popular Culture and New Media

These subjects provide an ideal complement to your technical specialisation, helping you understand the social context and implications of your future work. They give you valuable experience in different types of study skills and thinking, and a chance to mix with students from a variety of backgrounds.

Make sure you take subject pre-requisites into account when devising a sequence of STS subjects. You are encouraged to discuss your choice of subjects with any STS staff member.

STS for Commerce students

Commerce students may take STS subjects alongside their major to the extent that they have space for electives. STS subjects can form an ideal complement to your commerce specialisation, helping you understand the social context and implications of your future work. They give you valuable experience in different types of study skills and thinking, and a chance to mix with students from a variety of backgrounds.

You may choose any of the STS subjects listed in this Handbook, except those versions of subjects which are indicated as specific to other degrees. In particular, you will find the following subjects highly relevant:

STS100/103/200/203 Social Aspects of Science and Technology

STS120/220 Technology in Society: East and West

STS128/228 Computers in Society

STS240/340 Technological Change, Popular Culture and New Media

STS300 Environmental Context

You should examine your degree schedule carefully to ensure you have sufficient space for the subjects you choose as electives, and if in doubt, consult your degree coordinator or the Sub-Dean in Commerce. Make sure you take subject pre-requisites into account when devising a sequence of STS subjects. You are encouraged to discuss your choice of STS subjects with any STS staff member.

STS for Health and Behavioural Sciences students

STS 215 Globalisation: Science, Technology and Progress is available as an option in year 2 of the Bachelor of Medical Science.

All Health and Behavioural Sciences students may take STS subjects alongside their major to the extent that they have space for electives. STS subjects can form an ideal complement to your health or medical specialisation, helping you understand the social context and implications of your future work. They give you valuable experience in different types of study skills and thinking, and a chance to mix with students from a variety of backgrounds.

You may choose any of the STS subjects listed in this Handbook, except those versions of subjects which are indicated as specific to other degrees. In particular, you will find the following subjects highly relevant:

STS100/200 Social Aspects of Science and Technology

STS112/212 The Scientific Revolution

STS229/329 Scientific and Technological Controversy

STS238 Changing Images of Nature and the Environment

STS250/350 From Molecular Genetics to Biotechnology: the Past, Present and Future of Molecular Biology

STS323/223 Politics of Medicine and Health

STS235/335 The Politics of Risk

You should examine your degree schedule carefully to ensure you have sufficient space for the subjects you choose as electives, and if in doubt, consult your degree coordinator or the Sub-Dean in Health and Behavioural Sciences. Make sure you take subject prerequisites into account when devising a sequence of STS subjects. You are encouraged to discuss your choice of STS subjects with any STS staff member.

Science, Technology & Society undergraduate subjects 2002

Information on STS subjects and provisional class times appear on the University's website at:

http://www.uow.edu.au/student/sols/

You should also consult the timetable displayed on STS Program noticeboards for up-to-date class times, as many arrangements have to be changed before or during the first week of session. Watch the Program noticeboards carefully during the first week of session for changes to rooms and times, and for other information on your subjects. Tutorial lists for most 100- and 200-level, and some 300-level, subjects are posted on the Program noticeboards during the week before the start of each session or during the first week, so that you can sign for a time. In 100-level subjects and some 200-level subjects, tutorials start in week 2. You should in all cases attend the first lecture and consult the subject outline for clarification.

Summer Session subject availability announced during Spring Session

100-Level

STS100 Social Aspects of Science and Technology

Autumn 6 cp

Contact Hours: two 1 hr lectures and one 1 hr tutorial per week

Exclusions: not to count with STS200, STS103, STS203, STS190, STS290 or Open Learning SCI14

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

This subject introduces different ways of analysing the social and historical dimensions of science, medicine and technology - their origins, dynamics, impacts and management. After breaking down some common myths about science and technology and their relation to society, it shows how we can conceptualise and investigate in a more fruitful way the formation of scientific knowledge, the development of technological artefacts and systems, and debates and policies concerning scientific and technological issues.

Coordinator: Dr David Mercer

STS103 Social Aspects of Science and Technology (Home Study)

Summer # 6 cp

Contact Hours: Home Study, contact hours as required Pre-requisite: 6 credit points of subjects in Arts schedule

Remarks: not to count with STS100, STS200, STS203, STS190, STS290 or Open Learning SCI14

Assessment: essays, examination (held in week following end of study period supervised by approved examination invigilator at an external venue)

See STS100 Social Aspects of Science and Technology. STS103 is a distance learning version of STS100 for students who are unable to enrol in the on-campus subject because, for example, of timetabling or geographical considerations.

STS112 The Scientific Revolution: History, Philosophy and Politics of Science

Not available in 2002

STS116 Environment in Crisis: Technology and Society

Spring 6 cp

Contact Hours: WebCT lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week Exclusions: not to count with STS214, STS216, or STS218

Assessment: essay, presentations, test and class participation

This subject deals with the technological and social causes of environmental problems and the obstacles in the way of solutions being found to these problems. A range of case studies is used to illustrate the role of human activities in the environmental crisis and its solution. A focus on particular industries is complemented by an examination of the parts played by the media, governments, scientists, corporations and the community.

Coordinator: Dr Stewart Russell

STS120 Technology in Society: East and West

Autumn 6 cp

Contact Hours: 2hr lecture, 1 hr tutorial per week Exclusions: not to count with STS220 or STS221

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

The role of technology in the functioning of the modern industrial nation has become the focus of international attention. The Asia-Pacific region has expanded in influence, transnational corporations have proliferated and the older industrial nations are attempting to adjust to a loss of pre-eminence. Why have these changes taken place and what do they mean? This subject investigates the social, economic, and political context of technological change.

Coordinator: Dr Rhonda Roberts

STS128 Computers in Society

Spring 6 cp

Contact Hours: 2 hr lecture, 1 hr tutorial per week

Exclusions: not to count with STS228

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

This subject examines the development, role and implications of computers. How are computers being applied in factories, offices and schools? what is their effect on work? what patterns of employment are they helping to create? has job loss from their introduction been compensated by new economic activity? are computers leading to increased political control? what are their implications for privacy? Students are introduced to relevant concepts and theoretical frameworks from the social sciences.

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Brian Martin

200-Level

STS200 Social Aspects of Science and Technology

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: two 1 hr lectures and one 1 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 24 credit points

Exclusions: not to count with STS100, STS103, STS203, STS190, STS290 or Open Learning SCI14

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation See STS100 Social Aspects of Science and Technology

Coordinator: Dr David Mercer

STS203 Social Aspects of Science and Technology

Summer # 8 cp

Contact Hours: Home Study, contact hours as required

Pre-requisite: 24 credit points (including at least one Arts subject)

Exclusions: not to count with STS100, STS103, STS190, STS200, STS290 or Open Learning SCI14 Assessment: essays, examination (held in week following end of study period supervised by approved examination invigilator at an external venue)

See STS200 Social Aspects of Science and Technology. STS203 is a distance learning version of STS200 for students who are unable to enrol in the on-campus subject because, for example, of timetabling or geographical considerations.

STS212 The Scientific Revolution: History, Philosophy and Politics of Science Spring 8 cp

Not available in 2002

STS215 Globalisation: Science, Technology and Progress

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: 2 hr lecture, 1 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 36 credit points Exclusions: not to count with STS315

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

The view that scientific, technological and industrial development automatically leads to progress is common in modern society. This assumption of course has had a variety of very powerful repercussions and must be critically examined. The historical development of this view is investigated and a variety of alternative explanations of the origin and social role of science and technology in modern industrial society

are discussed.

Coordinator: Dr Rhonda Roberts

STS216 Environment in Crisis: Technology & Society

Spring 6 cp

Contact Hours: WebCT lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 24 credit points

Exclusions: not to count with STS116, STS214 or STS218 Assessment: essay, presentations, test and class participation

See STS218 Environment in Crisis: Technology and Society. STS216 is a version of STS218 for students in the

Engineering Faculty.

Coordinator: Dr Stewart Russell

STS218 Environment in Crisis: Technology and Society

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: WebCT lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 36 credit points

Exclusions: not to count with STS116, STS214 or STS216 Assessment: essay, presentations, test and class participation

See STS116 Environment in Crisis: Technology and Society. STS 218 is also available in Spring Session at

the Shoalhaven, Batemans Bay and Bega campuses.

Coordinator: Dr Stewart Russell

STS220 Technology in Society: East and West

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: 2hr lecture, 1 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 36 credit points

Exclusions: not to count with STS120 or STS221

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

See STS120 Technology in Society: East and West.

Coordinator: Dr Rhonda Roberts

STS221 Technology in Society: East and West

Autumn 6 cp

Contact Hours: 2hr lecture, 1 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 36 credit points

Exclusions: not to count with STS120 or STS222

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

See STS220 Technology in Society: East and West. STS221 is a version of STS220 for students in the

Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology degree.

Coordinator: Dr Rhonda Roberts

STS223 The Politics of Medicine and Health

Spring 8 cp

Contact Hours: 1 hr lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 36 credit points

Exclusions: not to count with STS323 or STS324

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

This subject explores the social, economic and political dimensions of medicine and health care: the forces shaping them, their implications and their limitations. Themes and topics may include: the shaping of medical knowledge and discourses, and concepts of health and sickness; institutions and markets; evaluation of new remedies; technological innovation; health and medical policies; the politics of cancer; health in the workplace; ethical dilemmas; critiques of conventional medicine and health care; alternative health practices.

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Brian Martin

STS228 Computers in Society

Spring 8 cp

Contact Hours: 2 hr lecture, 1 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 24 credit points Exclusions: not to count with STS128

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

See STS 128 Computers in Society Coordinator: Assoc Prof Brian Martin

STS229 Scientific and Technological Controversy

Spring 8 cp

Contact Hours: 1 hr lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week Pre-requisite: 36 credit points including any STS subject

Exclusions: not to count with STS329

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

Recent studies of scientific and technological controversies have shown that scientific 'facts' and technological systems cannot be dissociated from the social and political interests which they embody. According to this approach, controversies must be treated as inherently social and political processes where there are no impartial experts. This subject will consider the process by which scientific and technological controversies arise, are prosecuted and resolved, making extensive use of case studies.

Coordinator: Dr David Mercer

STS235 The Politics of Risk

Spring 8 cp

Not available in 2002

STS238 Changing Images of Nature and the Environment

Spring 8 cp

Not available in 2002

STS240 Technological Change, Popular Culture and New Media Spring 8 cp

Contact Hours: 3 hrs lecture/seminar per week

Pre-requisite: 36 credit points

Exclusions: not to count with STS241 or STS 340

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

This subject examines information theory and communication theory from a number of different perspectives, such as signal transmission theory, mass communication theory, semiotics, medium theory, organisation as communication, and expert systems. The changing relationship between human communication and communication technologies is investigated.

Coordinator: Dr David Mercer

STS241 Technological Change, Popular Culture and New Media

Spring 6 cp

Contact Hours: 3 hrs lecture/seminar per week

Pre-requisite: 36 credit points

Exclusions: not to count with STS240 or STS340

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

See STS240 Technological Change, Popular Culture and New Media. STS241 is a version of STS240 for

students in the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology degree.

Coordinator: Dr David Mercer

STS250 From Molecular Genetics to Biotechnology: the Past, Present and Future of Molecular Biology

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: 1 hr lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: Any STS subject or BIOL103 or other relevant subject as determined by Head of Program

Exclusions: not to count with STS350

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

This subject examines the development, impact and social context of molecular biology and genetic engineering. Topics may include: the development of a model for DNA; the development of recombinant DNA techniques; Asilomar and safety; corporate influence on molecular biology; ethical and political issues in genetic screening and genetic engineering; regulation of biotechnology and social control of research priorities; legal and moral issues in the patenting of life forms; the human genome project; the release of recombinant organisms; and biotechnology industry in Australia.

Coordinator: Dr Rhonda Roberts

STS260 Technology and Body Politics

Summer # 8 cp

Contact Hours: 6 per week Pre-requisite: 36 credit points

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

People's understanding and images of the body, health and human nature have been structured by the science, medicine, popular belief and larger social forces of different historical periods. An understanding of this shaping of medical knowledge is essential to a critical awareness of contemporary health issues. This subject examines the social history of science, medicine and culture and introduces Foucauldian, feminist and social constructivist perspectives.

STS288 Science and the Media

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: 3hrs lecture/seminar per week

Pre-requisite: 36 credit points Exclusions: not to count with STS388

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

Science increasingly frames social debates, and is itself socially directed. The media play a central role in both processes, a role often subject to criticism, especially from scientists. This subject examines the complex social dimensions of the relation between science, media and the 'public'. Topics may include: scientific knowledge in political debates; public understanding of science; media portrayals of science and scientists; science journalism; science as 'public knowledge'; and pro- versus anti-science 'movements'.

Coordinator: Dr David Mercer

300-Level

STS300 The Environmental Context

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: WebCT lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 24 credit points at 100-level Exclusions: not to count with STS301

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

Perspectives on the wider political, economic and social context of the environment are developed and explored. Topics covered include: an analysis of the principles and goals of sustainable development including issues of growth, valuation of the environment, the global dimension and equity; politics and social dynamics of environmental controversies; the politics of scientific knowledge about the environment; methods and policies for managing the environment.

STS300 is also available in Autumn Session at the Shoalhaven, Batemans Bay and Bega campuses.

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Brian Martin

STS306 Special Topics in the Social and Policy Aspects of Engineering

Autumn/Summer # 6 cp

Contact Hours: as required

Pre-requisite: (ENGG261 or ENGG201 or ENGG151) and approval of Head of Program Assessment: written assignments totalling 4000 words appropriate to subject matter

This subject allows Engineering students to examine specific social, historical or policy aspects of engineering projects or of the work of engineers or technologists. Students must obtain the approval of the Engineering Faculty for the subject to count towards their degree and the approval of the STS Program for a specific programme of work.

Coordinator: Dr Stewart Russell

STS315 Globalisation: Science, Technology and Progress

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: 2 hr lecture, 1 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 16 credit points at 200 level Exclusions: not to count with STS215

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation See STS315 Globalisation: Science, Technology and Progress

Coordinator: Dr Rhonda Roberts

STS323 The Politics of Medicine and Health

Spring 8 cp

Contact Hours: 1 hr lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week Pre-requisite: 16 credit points at 200 level Exclusions: not to count with STS223 or STS324

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

See STS 223 The Politics of Medicine and Health

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Brian Martin

STS329 Scientific and Technological Controversy

Spring 8 cp

Contact Hours: 1 hr lecture, 2 hr seminar per week

Pre-requisite: 16 credit points at 200 level including any STS subject

Exclusions: not to count with STS229

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation See STS229 Scientific and Technological Controversy

Coordinator: Dr David Mercer

STS335 The Politics of Risk

Spring 8 cp

Not available in 2002

STS336 Advanced Topics in the History of Science 1500-1800

Autumn 12 cp

Not available in 2002

STS350 From Molecular Genetics to Biotechnology: The Past, Present and Future of Molecular Biology

Autumn 12 cp

Contact Hours: 1 hr lecture, 2 hr tutorial per week

Pre-requisite: 16 credit points at 200 level Exclusions: not to count with STS250

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

See STS250 From Molecular Genetics to Biotechnology: the Past, Present and Future of Molecular Biology.

Coordinator: Dr Rhonda Roberts

STS376 The Politics of Risk

Spring 8 cp

Not available in 2002

STS388 Science and the Media

Autumn 8 cp

Contact Hours: 3hrs lecture/seminar per week Pre-requisite: 16 credit points at 200 level Exclusions: not to count with STS288

Assessment: essays, presentations and class participation

See STS288 Science and the Media Coordinator: Dr David Mercer

STS399 Research Topics in Science, Technology & Society

Autumn/Spring 12 cp

Contact Hours: as required

Pre-requisite: 16 credit points at 200 level and approval of Head of Program

Assessment: written assignments and seminar presentations

This subject involves reading and research, supervised by one or more members of STS staff, and the production of a major report, on a topic the Program considers suited to the student's background, record and specialisation. A seminar presentation and/or other written assignments may also be required in the course of the research. Students must seek approval to enrol and must negotiate a topic before session starts.

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Brian Martin

400-Level (Honours)

STS400 Science, Technology & Society

Double (A) 48 cp

Honours students undertake a 12 credit point subject on theory and methods in STS, specialist subjects totalling 12 CP, and a 24 credit point thesis. Students contribute to a series of seminars through the year. Students considering Honours in STS should contact the Honours Coordinator well in advance to seek approval for enrolment, discuss their programme, and negotiate a thesis topic and supervisor.

Coordinator: Dr Stewart Russell

STS430 Joints Honours in Science, Technology & Society and Another Discipline Double (A) 24 cp

Students should have completed studies in both disciplines accepted as equivalent to a major. The subject consists of components from the Honours programmes of each unit approved by both Heads as forming a coherent programme, including a thesis. Students contribute to a series of seminars in STS through the year. Students considering Joint Honours should contact the unit Honours Coordinators well in advance to seek approval for enrolment, discuss their programme, and negotiate a thesis topic and supervisors.

STS Coordinator: Dr Stewart Russell

Preparation & Presentation of Assignments

These specifications should be followed unless your subject coordinator says otherwise.

Layout

1 Cover sheet

For all the assignments, the appropriate cover sheet should be completed, the declaration signed, and the sheet attached firmly to the front of your script. Please do not put your name elsewhere on the script.

2 Abstract

On the first page of the text should appear an abstract of not more than 200 words in continuous prose (not note form) which outlines the arguments of the paper. An abstract is neither a statement of method nor an introduction to the paper.

3 Text

Write on one side of the paper only. If possible have your work typed, otherwise write clearly in ink. Text should be double spaced. Leave a margin of about 5 cm. on each page to allow space for comments. Number your pages.

4 Bibliography

Attach a list of sources used in alphabetical order by author. Use the same conventions as for footnotes.

5 Notes/references

References should be made in the form of either numbered footnotes on each page or numbered notes at the end of the text. They should be numbered consecutively through the entire paper; numbering of footnotes should not start again from 1 on each page.

References should appear in a conventional and consistent style; we suggest the following form:

Books - C. Offe, Contradictions of the Welfare State (Hutchinson, London, 1984), p.70.

Journal articles – B. Head, 'Recent Theories of the State', Politics 19(2), 1984, p.38.

References to material from the World Wide Web should include the author (if given), title of page, URL (http://...), the date of the material (if shown), and the date you retrieved the information, e.g.

Worksafe Australia, National Code of Practice for the Labelling of Workplace Substances [NOHSC:2012(1994)], Mar 1994

http://www.allette.com.au/worksafe/fulltext/docs/h3/15.htm, seen 14 Jul 1996

Where a reference is exactly the same as the previous one, it is sufficient to write <u>ibid</u>. (Latin: *ibidem*, in the same place.) Where the reference is the same as the previous one but the page number is different, it is sufficient to write <u>ibid</u>. with the new page number following, e.g. <u>ibid.</u>, p.73.

Where a note refers, after a number of intervening references, to a work quoted earlier, it is sufficient to give the author's name and the abbreviation <u>op. cit.</u> (Latin: *opere citato*, in the work cited) and the page, e.g. Head, <u>op.cit.</u>, p.40.

<u>Ibid.</u> and <u>op. cit.</u>, being abbreviations of foreign phrases, are always <u>underlined</u> or italicised.

If you cite two different works by the same author, you must distinguish them in the notes after the first citation either by giving an abbreviation of the full title, e.g. Offe, Contradictions ..., p.65, or by giving the dates if different, e.g. Offe, 1984, p.65.

You can use notes to make brief points of elaboration or illustration which would break the flow of your argument if put in the text.

It is important to adhere strictly to these or a similar set of rules as a matter of habit. Referencing in the correct form is part of the business of academic writing. Conventions like those set out above are necessary to identify unambiguously and precisely the work used; your reader must always be able to go to a library, get a copy of the work, and thus be able to trace your reference to its source immediately.

General

- 1 An essay should be an argument; it should present a case. You should discuss a problem and not simply narrate events or describe an institution. It may be necessary to devote some space to narrative or description, but the major task will be weighing and assessing evidence and arguing from that evidence to a solution of the problem. Have a clear idea of what the problem is and what it involves. Remember that there will seldom be a single clear-cut answer to it.
- 2 Sources vary in quality and not all works on a topic will be equally relevant or suited to your purpose. Wherever possible, work out your own interpretation and solution; do not accept without question the views and statements of other writers. Part of your task is to assess and criticise their work.
- 3 As far as possible, you should use your own words. It is a good idea when you have done your preliminary reading for the essay, to write your first draft without having your source material in front of you. Then you can decide what material to draw on to support your arguments and how to use it. Use quotations only to illustrate or back up a point in your argument for example, if your purpose is to discuss the style or argument that author exemplifies. Do not use a quotation simply because you think the author is better at phrasing a point than you are. Try to avoid long quotes; they are seldom necessary.
- 4 It is important to understand what is, and is not, acceptable practice when using other people's material. You should avoid paraphrasing passages closely. If you copy phrases or sentences word for word, you must make it clear that they are quotes, by enclosing the words in quotation marks, or, if you are using a passage of several lines, by separating it out as a block quote, indented for clarity. If you express an idea or argument that is neither your own nor an item of common knowledge, you must also attribute this. In both cases, acknowledge the source in a note. The boundary between your words and ideas, and those borrowed from another person, must always be clear to the reader. Otherwise you risk your work being identified as plagiarism. Plagiarism will lead to automatic failure of the essay.

Examples 1 to 4 show acceptable practice in using and referencing material:

Example 1: Large corporations are trying to gain control of information, much of which is government-funded.¹

Example 2: Schiller argues that large corporations are trying to gain control of information, much of which is government-funded.¹

Example 3: "... outputs of public information are being transferred to the marketplace and priced accordingly."¹

("..." means that words have been omitted from a quote. Make sure the omission does not change the sense of the quote.)

In each case, the number refers to the footnote or endnote:

1 HI Schiller, Who Knows: Information in the Age of the Fortune 500 (Ablex, Norwood, NJ, 1981), p.74

Example 4: The amount of information produced is growing all the time. (This is common knowledge, so no reference is needed.)

Examples 5 to 7 are not acceptable:

Example 5: Public information is being shifted to the marketplace and priced by the market. (Wrong: this is too close to the original wording used by Schiller.)

Example 6: Outputs of public information are being transferred to the marketplace and priced accordingly. (Wrong and very bad: direct quotes should always be included in quotation marks and include a citation to the source.)

Example 7: "Outputs of public information are being shifted to the marketplace and priced accordingly." (Wrong: the quote is not exact.)

- 5 When you are taking notes from a book, record the page numbers so that you can refer to them exactly when you are writing your essay.
- 6 Plan your essay carefully; spend time getting a logical organisation. Write the essay in clear, simple and grammatical prose. Give yourself time to revise your first attempt.
- 7 You may find it useful to look at a student manual on essay writing in the social sciences. Try one of:

K Betts & A Seitz, Writing Essays in the Social Sciences (Nelson Wadsworth, Melbourne, 1986)

J Clanchy & B Ballard, Essay Writing for Students: A Practical Guide (Longman Cheshire, Melbourne, 1981)

C Bulbeck, Social Sciences in Australia (1992), ch.10 'Researching a Topic'

8 Always keep a photocopy of your written work.

Marks, submitting assignments, special consideration

These general Program procedures may be varied between subjects. Read your subject outline carefully and note any variations from what appears here.

All assignments except the last major item in a subject will be returned with a mark immediately after marking. If you feel a piece of your written work has not been treated fairly, you should discuss it with your tutor promptly. The mark for your final major assignment will be withheld until the grade and total mark is released after the examiners' meetings at the end of session. Your tutor will happily discuss progress in general terms with you individually at any stage in the course, but she/he is not allowed to divulge an overall mark before the examiners' meetings. Please do not try to obtain your overall mark before it is officially released.

Grades are awarded on the following scale:

HD	High Distinction	85%+	P	Pass	50 %+
D	Distinction	75%+	PC	Pass Conceded	45% - 49%
C	Credit	65%+	\mathbf{F}	Fail	0% - 44%

Unless an extension is granted on medical or compassionate grounds, a late written assignment will be penalised by the deduction of 10 percentage points from the original mark per day (e.g. an essay otherwise worth 70% (Credit) will be marked 40% (Fail) after 3 days). The weekend does not count – i.e. an assignment due on Friday but submitted up to the same time on Monday is treated as one day late.

If you postpone a seminar presentation from the agreed date less than a week before that date and without medical or compassionate reason, you will be penalised by the deduction of 20 percentage points from the original mark.

If you present a medical certificate indicating you were not capable of working for a certain period, you will normally be granted an extension for an equivalent time. If you feel exceptional personal or family circumstances have prevented you from finishing an assignment, you should send copies of appropriate documents to your subject coordinator, or arrange for the Student Counselling Service to do so, and you should notify your tutor as soon as you can that there is a problem likely to affect your work.

Such medical or compassionate reasons for special consideration must be notified as soon as possible. While they may be grounds for extending the time you have to submit an assignment, for allowing alternative methods of assessment, or for allowing supplementary work, they cannot be taken into consideration in assessing the quality of a piece of work, and in particular claims will not be considered after submission of a piece of work that such circumstances affected its quality.

If you miss a substantial part of a subject, you may be advised to withdraw; if you have valid medical or compassionate reasons for the absence, the STS Program will support an application for the subject to be deleted from your record.

Written assignments may be posted to the STS Program, clearly marked with the subject number and the name of your tutor. The envelope must be postmarked not later the time the assignment is due, and you must register it and retain proof of posting. Posted assignments must still have an STS cover sheet completed and attached. Submission of assignments by fax or by e-mail is not acceptable, except in exceptional individual circumstances and with the prior agreement of your tutor, as stipulated in University Regulations.

Computer problems, disc failures, difficulty getting access to communal printers, etc.; difficulties in travelling to the University; employment commitments; and study

commitments and deadlines for other subjects; are <u>not</u> acceptable as reasons for late submission.

These penalties and conditions are STS Program policy and will be strictly adhered to; it is not fair to students who submit their work punctually if certain members of a class obtain extra time. Your continued enrolment in a subject is taken to indicate your acceptance of these conditions. Your tutor is not permitted to vary them; you should not put him/her in a difficult position by trying to persuade her/him to do so.

If you wish to have your final assignment returned to you after the end of session, you should provide your tutor with an addressed envelope (A4 or larger), with stamps to the value of 85c, before the end of session.

Assignment drafts

STS subject staff may offer to read drafts of your assignments and give you general comments on how you can improve the work. You should allow plenty of time for staff to look at a draft and for you to revise it in the light of their comments. Do not expect help if you leave it till a few days before the due date. Such comments are intended solely to help you improve on the draft. Staff will not tell you the grade you can expect on the basis of the draft, and nothing they say should be taken as indicating that it is adequate to pass or merits a particular grade. Staff cannot be expected to provide detailed correction, to find all mistakes or to provide comprehensive evaluation and criticism of the sort they will undertake when marking the assignment. It is therefore not a valid ground for appealing against a mark that you were not told of a particular shortcoming that is identified in the assignment. In particular, staff may not be able to detect plagiarised passages or otherwise comment on your use and acknowledgement of sources on a quick read of a draft; it remains your responsibility to ensure you have not used others' work in an unacceptable way, and plagiarism detected at whatever stage will be penalised severely.

Plagiarism

Please take careful note of the following University statement:

Plagiarism is the use of another person's work, or idea, as if it is your own. The other person may be an author, critic, lecturer or another student. When it is desirable, or necessary, to use other people's material, take care to include appropriate references and attribution – do not pretend the ideas are your own. Be sure not to plagiarise unintentionally. Plagiarism has led to expulsion from the University.

Student rights, responsibilities and expectations

Extensive information for students is provided on the University web pages.

You should read the University's Code of Practice – Students, which outlines your responsibilities as a student. You may also wish to read the Code of Practice – Teaching and Assessment, which sets out what you may expect from teaching units and staff. The Code is available as a leaflet, and on the University web pages:

http://www.uow.edu.au/student/calendar/codesofpractice.html

In all STS subjects, staff reserve the right to call a student for interview before determining the mark for an assignment.

In STS subjects unless otherwise specified there is a requirement that you attend at least 80% of tutorials or seminars to pass the subject. In some subjects there may be required lecture attendance too. Your subject outline will make the requirements clear. If in doubt, speak to your subject coordinator.

Note that in STS subjects there are checks on the standard of marking, particularly in subjects with several tutors. These checks may involve as appropriate:

- a sample of assignments being marked by more than one tutor;
- assignments with borderline marks or other difficulties being checked by the subject coordinator:
- distributions of marks for each tutor being compared and if necessary adjusted before the return of assignments;
- review of marks at the Program examination meeting at the end of session

STS and Copyright Materials

All materials provided for students in the STS Program are supplied in accordance with the principles laid down by DEST and approved by the AVCC and the Council of the University.

Specifically:

- (a) Payment for Material
 - No printed material that is ESSENTIAL for students to possess in order to satisfy the requirements of this subject is supplied for a fee or charge.
 - Non-compulsory/supplementary printed materials that are provided for the ASSISTANCE of students may be charged for, but the cost of such materials to students will be set to cover production costs only.
 - Copies of such supplementary materials will also be readily available to students who do not wish to buy them, e.g. in the University Library.

(b) Copyright Material

Copyright materials included in 'Readings' sold 'at cost' to students do not breach the relevant restrictions of the Copyright Agency, as currently interpreted by the AVCC, with regard, for example, to the proportion of an individual work that may be included in the collection.

Consultations with staff

All STS teaching staff members display times on their office doors when they are available for consultation during session time. Your tutor will notify you of his/her consultation times at the start of session. During these hours you can normally expect to find a staff member present – allowing for short absences and exceptional circumstances when they are called away on other business – and you do not need an appointment. At other times you should make an appointment with a staff member by phoning, by leaving a note, or by e-mail (see front of handbook). Please respect staff members' consultation times and any other requests they make about contact and consultation, and recognise that at other times they have many other duties which may limit their availability.

You are encouraged to speak to your tutor regularly during the session, and particularly after receiving marked assignments. Your tutor and the Head of Program are available for guidance not just concerning specific STS subjects, but on your choice of subjects within the Program and more general issues about your path and progress in your degree. And if Program staff are not able to help with a query, they will be able to refer you to someone who can.

For general enquiries, go to the Arts Faculty Enquiry Centre, 1st floor, Building 19, or phone (02) 4221 5328

Problems, suggestions, grievances and appeals

You should raise any problems or suggestions concerning teaching in a particular STS subject initially with your tutor. If an issue is not resolved, you should then speak to the subject coordinator, and if necessary, the Head of Program. Most problems can be quickly sorted out within the Program, but if they remain unresolved, or if the problem needs a decision or action at a higher level, you may arrange to see the Dean of Arts or the Dean of Students. Queries concerning your degree program, advanced standing, permission to undertake more than a standard load, and similar issues involving University or Faculty regulations, may need to be referred to the Sub-Dean in your Faculty.

If you feel an assignment has not been treated fairly, or you want more explanation of the basis for a mark, you should raise the issue promptly with your tutor. You may ask your tutor to pass the assignment to your subject coordinator to be re-marked.

Study resources and help

If you need more help with your general study skills, or find specific problems getting through your work, you should seek advice from your tutor or subject coordinator, or call at the Learning Development Centre on the ground floor of Building 19, (02) 4221 3977. If your tutor finds you are having problems with writing assignments, he/she may direct you to get help from the LDC.

Students with English as a second language are strongly recommended to take the subject ELS151 English for Academic Purposes: a Second Language Perspective – ask at the Modern Languages Program, 2nd floor, Building 19 or follow the links on the Faculty of Arts website. There is a range of ELS subjects for students of both non-English speaking and native English speaking backgrounds.

Make sure you are familiar with the layout of the University Library, the location of the different collections and other resources, the use of the catalogue, and the resources available through the Library's website, especially the STS resources page at:

http://www-library.uow.edu.au/eresources/subjects/arts/artssts.html

If you this is your first year of study, make sure you complete ILIP100, the Information Literacies Introductory Program, in the first six weeks of your first session. See:

http://www.library.uow.edu.au/helptraining/workshops/ilip2002/

Beyond that basic knowledge, you will be expected to develop appropriate skills as you go through your degree in retrieving and assessing information in printed and electronic form in and through the Library. Many STS subjects have a special library class and exercises to develop and update these skills, with emphasis on particular topics and materials appropriate to the subject. You should also make use of the range of workshops run by the Library throughout each session. The staff at the Library Information Desk, (02) 4221 3548, can help with search queries, and students doing major projects may seek help from the Arts Faculty Librarian.

If you have personal problems which make your studies difficult, you should arrange to see a Counsellor. The University Counselling Service, 3rd floor, UniCentre Building, (02) 4221 3445, provides free and confidential counselling on a wide range of difficulties you may encounter. See:

http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/counsell.html

The Disabilities Liaison Officer, (02) 4221 3445, provides information on resources which can assist students with disabilities, and can arrange services such as note-taking. See:

http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/disabl.html

Student representatives

STS Student representatives are elected in April each year – one for each level of study: 100, 200, 300, 400 (Honours) and 900 (Postgraduate). Candidates for representative at 200-and 300-level should be undertaking STS majors. Candidates for 100-level representative should be taking at least one STS 100-level subject in Autumn and Spring sessions. Representatives serve a term of one year. They attend one Program meeting each session, are involved in Program planning and curriculum discussions, and represent students' views on the Program's teaching and other matters to the relevant staff members throughout the year. If you qualify, please stand for election!

Classroom safety

While the University has a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which to study, you also have responsibilities in relation to safety on campus.

- Report any specific safety problems quickly to your teacher or another staff member.
- Raise any general safety concerns or suggestions with the Arts Faculty Health and Safety Committee via the Arts Enquiry Centre, or via the Student Representative on the Committee.
- Your conduct on campus should at all times be such that it does not create hazards for members of the University or visitors to the campus. Do not interfere with any safety equipment, detectors, alarms or notices, nor obstruct emergency exits at any time.
- Take time at the beginning of session to familiarise yourself with the safety aspects of the teaching rooms you are using and the areas of the buildings they are in in particular, emergency evacuation and first aid procedures, emergency exits and assembly areas. Information on these should be posted in the room or area, and your teacher should draw your attention to them.
- Respond promptly but calmly to an alarm or an instruction to evacuate a building. Obey the directions of emergency wardens, security officers and other staff members during an emergency. Never assume that a signal or instruction to evacuate is a practice or a false alarm.
- If you need first aid, contact the nearest first aider names and locations should be displayed in all teaching rooms, program and Faculty offices, and toilets or contact Security ext.4555, or 1 on the emergency phones.
- If you are involved in an accident or other incident with safety implications even a near miss report the event to a security officer, the first aider who attends, or other staff member. An incident report form is available at the Faculty Office, all program offices, or on the Web at
 - http://www.uow.edu.au/admin/personnel/ohs/incidents.htm
- Take responsibility for learning good ergonomics and keyboard practice. Ask a staff member for information about safe keyboarding instruction.
- If you have to cross or leave campus on your own after dark, speak to your teacher or contact Security ext.4555, or 1 on the emergency phones to arrange an escort.

Further information and guidance on health and safety issues is available in the SRC leaflet 'Occupational Health and Safety for Students', from the Arts Enquiry Centre, or on the Web at

http://www.uow.edu.au/admin/personnel/ohs/ohs.html