

STS 501: Proseminar in Science and Technology Studies

Course Description

This seminar will provide an overview of the interdisciplinary field of Science and Technology Studies (STS). It will introduce you to some of the major authors and methodological approaches in STS, as we consider the ways in which scientific knowledge is shaped by material, social, cultural, and political contexts. We will read and analyze classic works in the field along with some more recent contributions. Theoretical developments examined will include the sociology of scientific knowledge, postcolonial and feminist STS, and actor-network theory. We will also consider such topics as literary studies in an STS context, translation and popularization, metaphor, and the construction of selves.

We will read texts by Thomas Kuhn, Sandra Harding, Londa Schiebinger, Bruno Latour, Ian Hacking, Fa-Ti Fan, and Donna Haraway, among others. Assignments will include a seminar paper (roughly 20 pages), a presentation, and three sets of informal questions/comments.