Description

This seminar prepares students for graduate work in historical and social studies of science and technology. Through intensive reading and analysis of classic and recent works in the field, students will hone their ability to discern the disciplinary, theoretical, and methodological approaches underlying a given argument and to articulate its strengths and weaknesses in relation to a broader body of literature. The course is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates from any field who are interested in the material.

Requirements

Attendance and active participation: Share responsibility for presenting the key arguments and relations of each week’s readings.

Weekly reading synopses: Prepare a 500-750 word synopsis of the week’s reading, identifying arguments, methods, common themes, oppositions, and any other issues worthy of further consideration. Submit these by 9pm on Tuesdays.

Final Paper: Submit a 3000-4000 word discussion of work on a specific topic, or of an author’s writing over a career.

Grading

1/3 discussion participation
1/3 weekly reading synopses
1/3 final paper
Books to Buy:


Schedule

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9.08 Introduction and Course Mechanics

9.15 Classic Approaches in Philosophy and History of Science


9.22 The Strong Programme in the Sociology of Knowledge (SSK)


9.29  **Rewriting Histories of Early Science**


10.6  **Laboratory Studies: Social Construction of Scientific Facts**


10.13  **Rethinking Agency: Actor Network Theory (ANT)**


**10.20 The Turn to Technology**


Pinch, Trevor, and Wiebe Bijker. 1984. The social construction of facts and artifacts: Or, how the sociology of science and the sociology of technology might benefit each other. *Social Studies of Science* 14: 399-441.


**10.27 Social Construction of Technology (SCOT) and Beyond**


11.03 Science as Practice: Objectivity, Visualization, Representation


11.10 Feminist Perspectives


### 11.17 Biotechnological Reconfigurations of Kinship


11.24 Global Technoscience


12.1 Risk


12.8 Expertise


