

**PUBP 4410/6401: Science and Technology Policy**  
**Course Numbers: 94061/94062**  
**Fall 2026**

**Day:** Wednesday  
**Time:** 5:00 pm-7:45 pm  
**Location:** Swann 106

**Instructors:**

**Chris Hayter**

Contact: [chayter3@gatech.edu](mailto:chayter3@gatech.edu)  
202-321-8730 (cell)

I will generally respond to you within four hours or less (with some exceptions)

Office: 307 D.M. Smith

Office Hours: I will always make time to meet with you. Contact me to set up a time.

**Course Description (from Course Catalog):** Examination of relationships between science, technology, and government, and their mutual influence on public and private decisions.

**Required Course Materials**

Bonvillian, William B. (2024). *Pioneering Progress: American Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy*, MIT Press. <https://direct.mit.edu/books/oa-monograph/5865/Pioneering-ProgressAmerican-Science-Technology-and> (Free access)

All other required readings will be distributed electronically via Canvas. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to the class session for which they are listed.

**Course Goal:**

Equip students with a working understanding of U.S. science and technology policy, including its economic rationale, constituent organizations and institutions, political realities, and determinants of outcomes, and develop practical skills for analyzing and communicating policy options in innovation-intensive contexts.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- Explain the economic and institutional foundations of S&T policy, including growth theory, innovation systems frameworks, and the rationale for public investment in R&D.
- Identify and describe the organizational structure of U.S. science agencies and institutions, including their missions, research models, and relationships to the broader innovation system.
- Analyze the political and economic determinants of S&T policy outcomes, including how these differ by mission and industrial sector.
- Develop skills for evaluating the impact of policy instruments and communicating these results effectively to non-specialist audiences through written and oral formats.

**Processes:**

The course proceeds in three phases. The first phase establishes conceptual foundations, including the economic rationale for research investments and programming, competing frameworks for understanding S&T policy and its impact, and the structure and organization of U.S. science agencies and institutions. The second phase applies those foundations through a series of sector case studies, examining how institutional structure, political context, and economic incentives shape policy outcomes across missions and industries. Guest speakers from academia, government, and practice will provide practitioner perspectives alongside the readings. The third phase shifts primarily to student-driven work centered on original analysis, which will include background research, interviews, and analysis oriented toward understanding and improving the impact of S&T policy in a related domain of the student's choosing.

**Students will complete four milestones over the course of the semester:**

- *Project Prospectus*: Topic, rationale, intended interviews and sources, and S&T policy problem, submitted for instructor approval.
- *Project Problem Definition*: Definition of a policy problem in an area where public research investments are not being fully realized, grounded in course frameworks.
- *Final Project*: Policy analysis of an area where public research investments are not being fully realized, including a proposed solution and feasibility testing through practitioner conversations, accompanied by an in-class presentation.
- *In-Class Review Exam*: Covers foundational concepts, frameworks, and case study material from across the semester.

**Grading Policy:**

**Assignments/Distribution (percentage)**

10	Project Prospectus
10	Project Problem Definition
40	Final Project
20	In-Class Review Exam
20	Class Participation

**Grading Scale:**

Final grades will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%

### **Attendance Policy:**

You are expected to attend all classes. According to Georgia Tech policy, excused absences (e.g., illness, family crises) require written documentation, which can be obtained through the Office of Student Life (see link below). Communication is a critical factor that we use to determine whether an absence is excused. If you have advance knowledge of an absence, please let us know before the event. Absences that occur without prior notification or where proper documentation is not provided will be considered unexcused. For each unexcused absence, 5 percent will be deducted from your final course grade. Please consult this link to understand our mutual expectations, rights, and responsibilities, including in instances of a medical or personal emergency. <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/>

### **Academic Honor Code**

All students are expected to comply with the Georgia Tech Honor Code. By enrolling in this course, you affirm your commitment to the ideals of honor and integrity: *"I commit to uphold the ideals of honor and integrity by refusing to betray the trust bestowed upon me as a member of the Georgia Tech community."* For more information, see the [Office of Student Integrity](#).

### **Academic honesty/integrity statement:**

One serious kind of academic misconduct is plagiarism, which occurs when a writer, speaker, or designer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, images, or other original material or code without fully acknowledging its source by quotation marks as appropriate, in footnotes or endnotes, in works cited, and in other ways as appropriate (modified from WPA Statement on "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism"). If you engage in plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, you will fail the assignment in which you have engaged in academic misconduct and be referred to the Office of Student Integrity, as required by Georgia Tech policy. We strongly urge you to be familiar with these Georgia Tech sites:

Honor Challenge — <https://osi.gatech.edu/students/honor-code>

Office of Student Integrity — <http://www.osi.gatech.edu/index.php/>

### **Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement**

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgment, and responsibility between faculty members and students. See the [Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement](#) for a full description of both faculty and student expectations. Violations of these expectations may be addressed through the Office of Student Integrity.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) (ODS) as early in the semester as possible. Once accommodations are established, students are responsible for providing their instructor with an Accommodation Letter from ODS. Please contact us within the first two weeks of class so we can ensure accommodations are in place before graded work begins.

**<USG Core Impacts Language>**

**PUBP 4410/6401: Science and Technology Policy**

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcomes:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social or geographic relationships develop, persist or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion