

HTS/LMC/PUBP 6743
Science, Technology and Society: Core Seminar
Robert Rosenberger
Fall 2026

Class time: Wednesday, 6:30-9:15 pm

Location: DM Smith 004

Convener: Robert Rosenberger, robert.rosenberger@pubpolicy.gatech.edu

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Course Description:

Science and Technology Studies (STS) is an interdisciplinary field that merges approaches from a variety of disciplines like history, sociology, anthropology, economics and literature, to understand the role of science and technology in society as well as the influence of society on science and technology. This course examines central topics, debates and theoretical perspectives in STS. It consists of guest lecturers/discussion leaders from a variety of schools in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts who introduce students to a number of STS topics and approaches as well as to those faculty who conduct research in STS. It is the core course required for the Graduate Certificate in Science, Technology and Society.

Requirements/Grading (each worth 1/3 of final grade):

1. Class Participation/Attendance

This is a seminar that requires active student participation. Students should carefully read texts before class and be prepared for lively and sophisticated discussion.

2. Weekly Reading Responses

Students are required to write a weekly journal response of about 300-500 words and post them on the Discussions section of Canvas; it should be posted 24 hours before class (Monday by 6 pm). The entries should demonstrate students have done the reading, have reflected on the reading and how it relates to earlier readings/discussions and broader STS issues. Finally, the entry should include questions you'd like to raise in class.

3. Semester Paper

Students will do a term paper, preferably something that can advance their own research while incorporating ideas and issues from the class. Term paper topics (or alternative assignments or research papers) will be decided in discussion with the professor.

Readings & Format:

There are *no required textbooks for this course*. Each *faculty member provides pdf's* of articles that are posted on the Canvas website.

(If the student wishes to peruse some key texts as background—and these are in no way required—this one is often recommended: Jasanoff, S., G. Markle, J.C. Petersen, and T. Pinch (eds), *Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*. Beverly Hills: Sage, 1993.)

Course Objectives:

- To examine key themes in STS from a variety of disciplinary perspectives
- To understand the way in which social, historical, economic and cultural factors affect science and technology
- To read the main foundational texts in the field of STS
- To communicate orally and writing about these issues
- To be exposed, and make contacts with, faculty across Ivan Allen College who do STS type work

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will learn how to think about the role of science in society drawing on a variety of disciplines
- Students will learn how to read critically & improve their writing
- Students will be able to understand the role of science and technology in society

Georgia Tech Honor Code:

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's [Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required.

ADAPTS accommodation is available for students with disabilities:

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

The CENTER for MENTAL HEALTH CARE & RESOURCES is available to all Georgia Tech students: <https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/>

Statement On Using Large Language Models For Your Writing For This Course:
Don't.

You are not permitted to use Chat GPT or any other Large Language Model or AI to perform your writing for you for this course.