

STS 403 / Science, Technology and Society

Spring Semester 2020
Wednesdays 3pm-5:45pm
Classroom: G113 Tompkins Hall
Course website: <https://wolfware.ncsu.edu/>

Instructor

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Course Prerequisites

STS 214 and junior or senior status in STS

Description

This course provides students with a framework for understanding the two-way relationships between technologies and the societies they emerge within. Social and cultural factors influence the emergence, adoption and evolution of technologies, while technologies impact society and culture in unanticipated ways. Understanding this dynamic is crucial to understanding and managing technologies. This course presents historical case studies, ethnographic accounts, and theoretical perspectives to introduce the conditions that constrain and enable technologies. This is the senior capstone seminar, and students will complete a major written product demonstrating their mastery of STS skills and concepts.

Required texts

All required readings will be available without charge through the course web site (<https://wolfware.ncsu.edu>) See schedule below for details.

Attendance

Attendance is required. You may miss one class without any excuse needed. Each additional *unexcused* absence will deduct 3 percent from your final course grade. Excused absences follow the university policy. <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03> Please contact the instructor immediately if you know you will have a conflict during the semester. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive. The instructor will penalize late arrivals and early departures as unexcused absences after a warning. Students who fail to attend the first two course meetings, or miss two meetings in the first five business days of the semester, will be dropped from the course, per university policy. See the link above.

Grading

NCSU and this instructor value academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences. All students are expected to abide by the Code of Student Conduct policy (NCSU POL11.35.1) <https://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>. By submitting exams and papers, students indicate that they have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on exams or papers.

Letter Grade	Score
A	93-100
A-	90-92

B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82

C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69

D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60

Assignments

- 1) Participation, including in-class discussion and presentation of key issues in the assigned reading material. (10%) See description of participation below.
- 2) Topic, research questions and preliminary sources for the final paper (10%)
- 3) Annotated bibliography for the final paper (8 entries, 250 words each) (10%)
- 4) Abstract for the final paper (5%)
- 5) Outline for the final paper (5%)
- 6) Peer-editing of partner's rough draft (5%) and Rough Draft (15%)
- 7) Presentation of the final paper (10%)
- 8) Final paper (30%) See below "Guidelines for final paper"

Participation: This is a seminar. Seminars are based on student participation. That means carefully and thoroughly doing all the reading in advance, coming to class prepared to discuss the reading, and not merely discussing but raising questions to lead discussion. Students' preparation and participation will be assessed as follows:

Late work policy: Assignments are late if not submitted before the due date and time. Late assignments will be accepted for one week after the due date and time, but **late assignments will be penalized one full grade** (A to B, B to C, C to D, etc.) for each late calendar day. Excused absences and exceptions to the late policy follow the university policies: <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03>

Grading:

A+ level (10%) Student's participation is outstanding in both quality and quantity. Student demonstrates a full mastery of the course material. Student comes prepared and encourages deeper engagement by other students.

A level (9%) Student is well prepared, attentive, always responds when called upon and volunteers often with pertinent answers or questions. Student demonstrates a strong facility with the course material and complex structures, but makes minor mistakes.

B level (8%) Student is usually prepared, responds when called on and volunteers on occasion. Student demonstrates a basic familiarity with assigned material, but falters with complex structures.

C level (7%) Student shows evidence of being unprepared on occasion, has trouble when called on and does not volunteer often. Student demonstrates some familiarity with assigned material, but occasionally falters on basic structures.

D level (6%) Student is unprepared, inattentive, never volunteers, or comes to class late. Student demonstrates occasional familiarity with assigned material, but regularly falters on basic structures.

F (0%) Student exhibits a lack of concern for the class, sleeps in class, or disturbs the class. Student fails to show familiarity with assigned material and/or is absent frequently.

Guidelines for final paper: The final paper assignment is to write a 15-20 page **literature review** of a significant social issue, using the insights of Science, Technology & Society. All class assignments build toward this capstone research experience. Details about the literature review will be on the course website. As part of the final paper, you will submit an abstract and complete bibliography with at least 12 external references, such as peer-reviewed papers or books. In your paper you will give a **BALANCED** and **CRITICAL EVALUATION** of STS issues related to your topic.

The papers are not meant to be a mere descriptive summary of the extant literature nor a simple survey of ideas. You are expected to:

- 1) show familiarity with the literature on the particular topic,
- 2) discern and articulate what, specifically, the relevant issue(s) is (are),
- 3) draw up a clear thesis (this paper requires you to make an argument),
- 4) critically engage your resource material and provide a balanced analysis that develops the thesis,
- 5) end the paper with a conclusion that is rooted in your research and flows neatly from your argumentation.

The final paper requires you to do additional research aside from the course readings. Please note that, except in unusual situations, you cannot rely primarily on Internet sources (other than academic journals accessible online) for your research. *All sources must be documented appropriately.* If you are unsure about how to document your paper, consult a writer's manual, such as the MLA handbook or the Chicago manual of style. Whichever recognized method you choose (footnotes, endnotes, parenthetical citations) use it *consistently* throughout the paper.

In sum, an excellent paper is one that is well-structured, fluid, free of grammatical and spelling errors, proofread, properly documented using a recognized citation style consistently throughout, thoroughly researched, provides an intelligent and constructively critical evaluation of the subject at hand, offers the reader a balanced analysis of the arguments, and leads to a lucid conclusion.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities will not be given for this course. It is expected that you will earn all of your course points through attendance, participation, and on-time completion of assignments.

Restriction on sharing content of course materials: Copying, distributing, downloading, and uploading information on the Internet may infringe the copyright for that information. Violations of copyright law that occur on or over the university's networks or other computer resources may create liability for the university as well as the computer user.

<https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-01-25-02>

By accessing e-reserve and course web site material you agree to the following statement: "I acknowledge that all documents made available to me for the course STS 403 taught at NC State University are copyrighted and intended only for my personal use. By logging into the STS 403

associated web site, you certify that you will not share any content of the class STS 403 NC State University websites with a third party without written permission from the course instructor.

Online privacy: Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course, via electronic tools like email or web-postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course.

Supporting fellow students in distress: As members of the NC State Wolfpack community, we each share a personal responsibility to express concern for one another and to ensure that this classroom and the campus as a whole remains a healthy and safe environment for learning. Occasionally, you may come across a fellow classmate whose personal behavior concerns or worries you, either for the classmate's well-being or yours. When this is the case, I would encourage you to report this behavior to the NC State's Students of Concern website:

<https://ncstatecares.dasa.ncsu.edu/>

Accommodations for Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with the Disability Resource Office on the third floor of Holmes Hall (Suite 304). For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.01).

<https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-01>.

Use of electronic devices in class: The use of personal computer device (e.g., laptops, tablets) is allowed, while ***the use of communication devices (e.g., cell phones) is not allowed. Do NOT use your phone in class.*** If you have an emergency that requires phone access, discuss this with the instructor in advance. Why this policy? See these links:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/07/27/class-cellphone-and-laptop-use-lowers-exam-scores-new-study-shows>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

Communication

Email is the best way to communicate with me and I will respond to emails within 48 hours. My office hours are open, meaning you do not need to make an appointment ahead of time. You are expected to check your NCSU email for course-related messages at least every 48 hours.

Online class evaluations will be available for students to complete during the last 2 weeks of the semester then become unavailable at 8 am on the first day of finals. Students will receive an email message directing them to a website where they can login using their Unity ID and complete evaluations. All evaluations are confidential; instructors will not know how any one student responded to any question, and students will not know the ratings for any instructors.

Evaluation website: <https://go.ncsu.edu/cesurvey> or

<https://oirp.ncsu.edu/surveys/classeval/for-students>

More information about ClassEval: <https://oirp.ncsu.edu/surveys/classeval>

N.C. State polices, regulations, and rules

Students are responsible for reviewing the NC State University PRR's which pertains to their

course rights and responsibilities:

Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

<https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03> with additional references at

<https://oied.ncsu.edu/equity/policies/>

Code of Student Conduct <https://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>

Grades and Grade Point Average <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03>

Credit-Only Courses <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-15>

Audits <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-04>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is a proposed course of action, not a contract. Dates, reading assignments, and lecture topics may change with notice.

Schedule

Week One

W 1/8 Introductions & evaluating information

Fri 1/10 Student survey due

Week Two

W 1/15 Literature reviews

In-class quiz: What is a literature review?

Sun 1/19 Questions exercise

Sun 1/19 Discussion signups due

Week Three

W 1/22 Generating research questions

Sun 1/25 Individual meeting signups due

Sun 1/25 1st draft topic questions due

Week Four

W 1/29 Research methods

Topics & questions workshop

Sun 2/2 Topic & questions due

Week Five

W 2/5 Student-led discussion

Research workshop

Sun 2/9 Preliminary sources due

Week Six

W 2/12 Student-led discussion

Annotations workshop

Sun 2/16 Annotations due

Week Seven

W 2/19 Individual meetings

Assignment

SMELL, CRAAP tests, Cook & Lewandowsky 2011, [Calling B.S. website](#)

Knopf 2006, Pautasso 2013

“Ch. 2: Moving from a Topic to a Question to a Working Hypothesis” in Turabian 2013

Reading TBA

Reading TBA

Sun 2/23 1st draft bibliography due

Week Eight

W 2/26 Individual meetings

Sun 3/1 Bibliography due

Week Nine

W 3/4 Facial Recognition

Reading TBA

Brock & Safari, discussion leaders

Week Ten

W 3/11 **Spring break; no class**

Week Eleven

W 3/18 Right to be Forgotten

Reading TBA

Allyson & Madison, discussion leaders

Abstract workshop

Sun 3/22 Abstract due

Week Twelve

W 3/25 Familial DNA Searching in Law Enforcement Reading TBA

Mary Alex & Jen, discussion leaders

Writing workshop

Week Thirteen

W 4/1 Critical Thinking Assessment

Sun 4/5 Outline due

Week Fourteen

W 4/8 Individual meetings by appointment

W 4/8 First draft due

Sun 4/12 Peer edits due

Week Fifteen

W 4/15 Editing workshop

W 4/14 Rough draft due

Week Sixteen

W 4/22 **Presentations**

Tuesday 4/21 Presentation slides due

Sunday 4/26 Final paper due

Thursday May 7 final grades posted

Friday May 8 STS graduation!