

University of Calgary
Department of Communication and Culture

Science, Technology, and Society STAS 201 L01
Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society

Fall 2014

Mon Sept 8 – Fri Dec 5 (excluding Nov 10 & 11)
TR 11:00-12:15

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Feng
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Web Page: comcul.ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Thurs 12:30-13:30 or by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Science, Technology, and Society. Using an inquiry-based learning approach, students will investigate topics relating to the social, political, and cultural dimensions of science and technology. We will study how science and technology have developed historically and some of the social, legal, and ethical issues raised by these developments.

Additional Information

Some classes will be held at the library or off-campus; details will be provided on the first day of classes. Attendance is encouraged throughout the course and is particularly important for small group discussions and group work. Students who anticipate missing a large number of classes should inform the instructor ahead of time.

Objectives of the Course

The goals of this course are to:

1. Gain an understanding of how contemporary science and technology work;
2. Learn about the ways in which science, technology, and society influence one another;
3. Develop reading, writing, and research skills;
4. Reflect critically on the relationship between science and the public.

Textbooks and Readings

There are no required texts for this course. Readings and other course materials will be made available via through the D2L course website.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Please turn off cell phones during class. Students are welcome to bring laptops and other electronic devices to class so long as these are used to aid student learning. During class, it is not acceptable to play games, answer email, surf the web, text/IM, or engage in other non-class activities. Not only do such practices negatively affect you,

they also distract other students and undermine our goal of creating a respectful learning environment. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave.

Assignments and Evaluation

Students will be graded based on following components:

- Field trip report 15% *due Sept 18*
- Research skills (25% total)
 - Pre-tests (3 in total) 10% *due Sept 25, Oct 2, Oct 9*
 - Assessment 15% *in class on Oct 23*
- Inquiry project (60% total)
 - Research proposal 10% *due Oct 7*
 - Annotated bibliography 15% *due Oct 30*
 - Presentation 15% *last 2 weeks of term*
 - Written report 20% *due Nov 27*

Field trip report: We will take a field trip downtown to view some of the events being put on as part of [Beakerhead](#), an annual festival where science and engineering meet art and culture. Afterwards, students will write a report reflecting on their experience.

Research skills: With the help of our librarians, students will learn how to develop a research plan, find sources, evaluate information, and create an annotated bibliography. You will be assessed on your ability to master the above research skills.

Inquiry project: This course involves inquiry-based learning, meaning students will engage in self-directed, problem-based research as part of their learning experience. Over the course of the term we will turn our attention to current scientific issues and engage in a series of *inquiry exercises*. Briefly, this involves brainstorming, developing a project, doing research, writing up your results, and presenting these findings to your classmates. You will work in groups for this assignment. Students will be assessed on the following:

- *Research proposal:* Each group will submit a research proposal that describes their topic, question, and research plan, as well as how project tasks will be divided among the group.
- *Annotated bibliography:* Each student will prepare an annotated bibliography that summarizes and evaluates five sources that are relevant to their research topic. Note that this assignment is graded individually.
- *Presentation:* Each group will have 15 minutes to present highlights of their research in class. This may take the form of a traditional presentation or may use alternative formats such as skits, videos, social media, etc.
- *Written report:* Each group will submit a written report that summarizes their research. The report should be 15 pages maximum, not including bibliography.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: all assignments and exams weighted more than 20% must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System & Dept of Communication and Culture Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in Communication and Culture:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A detailed schedule will be provided on the first day of classes.

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 picarts@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds

<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselling Services• Health Services• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE• Online resources and tips	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>
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