

SOC371 Science, Technology, and Society

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JULY

Synopsis:

SOC371 Science, Technology, and Society examines the complex interaction between science, technology, and society. Science and technology do not deterministically transform social structure and practice. The society plays an important role in shaping not only how science and technology impacts society but also science and technology itself. We will explore how social, political, cultural and material conditions shape scientific work and technological innovation, how technology embodies and reproduces societal values and priorities, how scientific knowledge changes our self-perception, and how technology affects social relations and civic participation. Throughout the course, we will strive to figure out the ongoing, open-ended entanglements between science, technology, and society.

Topics:

- Introduction
- Social structural and institutional foundations of science
- Science and boundaries
- The social context of technological innovation
- Feminist critique of science and technology
- Actor-network theory
- Institutional decision making and scientific facts
- Technology and inequality
- The Internet and the restructuring of relationships and identities
- Social media and civic engagement
- Technologies of the future
- Singapore Biopolis

Learning Outcome:

- Examine the production, dissemination, and utilisation of science and technology in contemporary society
- Analyse the interaction between science, technology, and society from sociological perspectives
- Demonstrate an understanding of how societal values and priorities are embedded in and reproduced by technological arrangements
- Apply course content to personal experiences as well as issues related to science, technology, and society
- Evaluate arguments and explanations on science, technology, and society
- Develop skills in sociological thinking and written and spoken expression

Assessment Strategies (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
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Overall Continuous Assessment	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	25
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	25
	PARTICIPATION 1	10
Overall Examinable Components	ECA	40
Total		100