

COURSE DETAIL

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Utrecht University

Program(s)

Utrecht University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Sociology

UCEAP Course Number

108

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

UCEAP Transcript Title

SCI TECH & SOCIETY

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

Do you think science and technology are neutral tools for gaining economic and social prosperity? Do you think innovation is always a good thing? This course questions such assumptions by studying the relationship between science, technology, and society. This relationship is both complex and ambiguous. For example, from a societal perspective, self-driving cars may bring profits to car companies and gains in car safety, but they also raise questions on individual autonomy and responsibility of drivers; genetically modified crops may increase yields but may also increase the power of multinational corporations over smallholder farmers; and contraceptive pills may enable family planning but also put the responsibility for contraceptive measures with women instead of men. In short: science and technology can be highly political, and innovation can have consequences whose desirability can be contested. This course provides students with the tools and perspectives to explore and reflect on such politics and controversies. Theoretical frameworks for understanding the relationship between science, technology, and society, such as large technological systems, actor-network theory, and the social construction of technology are reviewed.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

GEO2-2274

Host Institution Course Title

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Host Institution Campus

Utrecht University

Host Institution Faculty

Geosciences

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

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