COURSE DETAIL

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY IN CHINA
Country Hong Kong
Host Institution University of Hong Kong
Program(s) University of Hong Kong
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Asian Studies
UCEAP Course Number 125
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY IN CHINA
UCEAP Transcript Title SCI & TECH IN CHINA
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

Many students in the Faculty of Arts tend to think of “science” and “technology” as irrelevant to them. Typical reactions range from “I am not a science major,” “science is boring,” or “it's too technical.” However, science and technology actually interact with the contemporary history and society of China in significant ways. For example, how many of you are using Lenovo laptop computers? Do you know the history behind Lenovo, IBM, and the entrepreneurial initiative of the Chinese Academy of Sciences since the 1980s? When you go grocery-shopping at a local supermarket, do you actively accept or reject genetically modified foods? How do new health and reproductive technologies (vaccines, new drugs, contraceptives) transform the healthcare system in China, for better or worse? These are some of the questions explored in the course. This course will introduce students to the multiple ways in which science, technology, and society mutually shape one another in modern and contemporary China. Instead of giving a celebratory history of science and China (i.e. China is so great now because of science), the course will take a balanced approach to discuss the beneficial as well as destructive powers of science. The key is to develop the ability to critically understand the good and bad aspects of science and technology. Instead of asking “why do I need to understand science?” as some of you might ask, I want students to consider “how could we understand contemporary China without science?” This course offers a general foundation for China studies majors, minors, and students in other faculties who are interested in thinking the intersection between science, technology, and society in contemporary China.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

SINO3005

Host Institution Course Title

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY IN CHINA

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department China Studies
Course Last Reviewed

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