

COURSE DETAIL

SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Country

Korea, South

Host Institution

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)

Program(s)

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, KAIST

UCEAP Course Level

Lower Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Sociology

UCEAP Course Number

41

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UCEAP Transcript Title

SOCIOL OF SCI&TECH

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course introduces key concepts and analytical tools for understanding science and technology as social enterprises. Students examine classical philosophical debates—such as the demarcation problem—and analyze how social systems, institutional norms, and cultural contexts shape the work of scientists and engineers.

The course explores motivations and incentives that drive knowledge production, as well as the collaborative and competitive structures that organize research. Building on this foundation, the course asks practical questions about how to promote science and technology through effective governance, economic analysis, and policy design.

A distinctive feature of this course is its applied project structure. Students take on two roles over the semester: first, acting as a funding agency by drafting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) on pressing science policy issues; second, acting as policy researchers by responding to a peer's RFP with a complete policy study.

This process mirrors real-world science policy cycles, from setting priorities to producing actionable recommendations, and will push students to think both strategically and analytically. By the end of the course, students will have a critical understanding of how science and technology are constructed, organized, and sustained, as well as hands-on experience in research design, policy analysis, and communication skills directly transferable to real-world science policy work.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

HSS.20032

Host Institution Course Title

SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://erp.kaist.ac.kr/com/lgin/SsoCtr/initExtPageWork.do?link=estblSubjt>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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