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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