COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

The fields of medical anthropology and science and technology studies have been shaped in recent decades by a series of questions regarding scientific inquiry, health and illness, and technological development. This course is predicated on the realization that the social phenomena studied by “medical anthropology” and “STS” are inextricably linked, and understanding these convergences requires moving among disparate fields of inquiry.

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the literatures and practices that constitute MSTS as a discipline and scholarly approach today. We will approach MSTS as 1) a body of literature, 2) an emergent (or merging) discipline with complex genealogies, 3) a growing emphasis within sociocultural anthropology, 4) a way of framing inquiries and selecting methods and data, and 5) a mode of social engagement.

Topics examined include the foundations of scientific knowledge; spaces and practices through which authoritative knowledge and “truth” is made; machines, humans, and technological systems; race, gender, and postcolonial perspectives; experts and publics; and transdisciplinary approaches to the study of medicine, science, and technology.

This course is open to all graduate students, and it is required of those seeking the M.A. in MSTS or the Graduate Concentration in Anthropologies of Medicine, Science, and Technology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be based on the following components:

1) Participation & Discussion Leadership (30%)

This class depends on student presence and engagement. Participation includes: being present in class and having completed the required readings; being able to discuss the readings and to constructively critique them; making comments that are pertinent to the course content; being able to contextualize the readings in relation to the broader themes of the course; and listening with integrity to what other students have to say. In pairs or small groups, you will facilitate two class discussions. You may conduct these sessions in any manner you choose, but your facilitation should focus on encouraging vigorous and thoughtful discussion about the ideas raised in and related to the assigned reading.

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Course Materials

All required readings can be downloaded from the course website: https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/3071
**MSTS RESOURCES**

The following resources are RECOMMENDED to help you become familiar with the field.

**Books**


**Journals & Blogs**

*Culture, Medicine & Psychiatry*

*Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*

*Engaging Science, Technology & Society*

*Isis*

*Medical Anthropology*

*Medical Anthropology Quarterly*

*Medicine Anthropology Theory*

*Science, Technology & Human Values*

*Social Science & Medicine*

*Social Studies of Science*

*Somatosphere* ([somatosphere.net](http://somatosphere.net))

**Professional Organizations**

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) ([4sonline.org](http://4sonline.org))

Society for Med Anthro, Science, Technology, & Medicine interest group ([medanthro.net/interest-groups/stm/](http://medanthro.net/interest-groups/stm/))

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS, cont.**

2) Collective Annotation (30%)

The class will collectively annotate one assigned article each week using the Hypothes.is platform. You can find our group page at [https://hypothes.is/groups/pNgx6Lmv/msts-prosem-f16](https://hypothes.is/groups/pNgx6Lmv/msts-prosem-f16).

You should contribute at least FIVE (5) substantive annotations or page notes to each article. Annotations may be thoughtful questions, comments, or context that you want to add. Some of your annotations may be in response to comments that your colleagues have already made.

Please complete your required annotations by 9pm on Tuesday evening, and read through your colleagues’ responses before class.

3) Term Project (40%)

Your final project for the class may take ONE of the following possible forms:

a. **Literature review**: Construct an analytic review of the literature on a topic of your choice related to MSTS. Students who are preparing research proposals or orals documents may direct their review toward relevant research projects. Reviews should be no longer than 15 pages.

b. **Course proposal and syllabus**: For this project, design an upper-division undergraduate course on a topic of your choice related to MSTS. Designing this course will require you to review the literature in the field and identify significant figures, debates, methods, and theoretical approaches. You will then create learning objectives and determine appropriate readings and assignments that will assist students in achieving those objectives. Your syllabus should be accompanied by a 1,500-word proposal locating the course in the discipline, defending its scope and depth, and describing the logic behind the topics, readings, and assignments chosen.

c. **Podcast**: For this project, produce a podcast communicating anthropological insights on a topic related to MSTS. While you may be more accustomed to writing and teaching, this project requires you to consider the use of other tools to present your work to broader audiences. Podcasts should be about 30-minutes in length and should be accompanied by a 1,500-word discussion locating the topic in the discipline, identifying the intended audience, and describing the logic behind production choices.
The following readings are required. Additional recommended readings will be listed on the course website. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class on the course website.

**Week 1, September 28  Introductions, Genealogies, and Orientations**


**Week 2, October 5  Paradigm Shifts: Science as Culture and Practice**


**Week 3, October 12  Producing Knowledge: Facts, Laboratories, and Practices**


**Week 4, October 19  From Networks To Assemblages**


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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 5, October 26 Feminist Technoscience


Week 6, November 2 Multiple Knowledges: Experts and Publics


Week 7, November 9 Secular and Nonsecular Science


Week 8, November 16 Interrogating Technology


Week 9, November 23 Justice


Week 10, November 30 Speculative Futures

