

Proseminar in Medicine, Science & Technology Studies (MSTS)

Anth 204A, Fall 2016
Weds 12:00-2:50pm
SBSG 3200

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

Biagioli, Mario, ed. 1999. *The Science Studies Reader*. NY: Routledge.

Hackett et al., eds. 2008. *Handbook of Science & Technology Studies*, 3rd ed. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Hess, David. 1997. *Science Studies: An Advanced Introduction*. NY: NYU Press.

Sismondo, Sergio. 2009. *An Introduction to Science & Technology Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell.

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)

Professional Organizations

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) (4sonline.org)

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

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>.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

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

Franklin, Sarah. 1995. "Science as Culture, Cultures of Science." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24:163-184.

Martin, Emily. 1998. "Anthropology and the Cultural Study of Science." *Science, Technology, and Human Values* 23(1):24-44.

Fujimura, Joan. 1998. "Authorizing Knowledge in Science and Anthropology." *American Anthropologist* 100(2):347-360.

Fischer, Michael M.J. 2007. "Four genealogies for a recombinant anthropology of science and technology." *Cultural Anthropology* 22(4): 539-615.

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

Weber, Max. 1946. "Science as a Vocation." In *Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Gerth and Mills, trans. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pgs. 129-156.

Merton, Robert. 1973 (1942). "The Normative Structure of Science." *The Sociology of Science*. Norman W. Storer, ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pgs. 267-278.

Fleck, Ludwik. 1979 (1935). *Genesis and Development of a Scientific Fact*. F. Bradley and T. Trenn, trans. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Prologue and pgs. 1-51.

Kuhn, Thomas. 1996 (1962). "The Nature and Necessity of Scientific Revolutions." *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pgs. 92-110.

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

Poovey, Mary. 1998. "Accommodating Merchants: Double Entry Book Keeping, Mercantile Expertise, and the Effect of Accuracy." In *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pgs. 29-91.

Tilley, Helen. 2011. *Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development, and the Problems of Scientific Knowledge, 1870-1950*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 4, October 19 From Networks To Assemblages

Callon, Michel. 1987. "Some Elements of a Sociology of Translation: Domestication of the Scallops and the Fishermen of St. Brieuc Bay." In *Power, Action and Belief: A New Sociology of Knowledge?* John Law, ed. London: Routledge. Pgs. 196-229.

Tsing, Anna. 2015. *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 5, October 26 **Feminist Technoscience**

Haraway, Donna. 1991. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." In *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women*. NY: Routledge. Pgs. 183-202.

Subramaniam, Banu. 2014. *Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Week 6, November 2 **Multiple Knowledges: Experts and Publics**

Collins, Harry and Robert Evans. 2002. "The Third Wave of Science Studies: Studies of Expertise and Experience." *Social Studies of Science* 32(2):235-296.

Callison, Candis. 2014. *How Climate Change Comes to Matter: The Communal Life of Facts*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Week 7, November 9 **Secular and Nonsecular Science**

Roberts, Elizabeth F.S. 2016. "Gods, Germs, and Petri Dishes: Toward a Nonsecular Medical Anthropology." *Medical Anthropology* 35(3): 209-219.

Hamdy, Sherine. 2012. *Our Bodies Belong to God: Organ Transplants, Islam, and the Struggle for Human Dignity in Egypt*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week 8, November 16 **Interrogating Technology**

Marx, Karl. "The Machine versus the Worker." In *The Social Shaping of Technology*. 2nd edition. Donald MacKenzie and Judy Wajcman, eds. Pgs. 156-157.

Pinch, Trevor. 1996. "The Social Construction of Technology: A Review." In *Technological Change: Methods and Themes in the History of Technology*. Robert Fox, ed. Pgs. 17-35.

Medina, Eden. 2011. *Cybernetic Revolutionaries: Technology and Politics in Allende's Chile*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Week 9, November 23 **Justice**

Cozzens, Susan. 2007. "Distribute Justice in Science and Technology Policy." *Science and Public Policy* 34(2): 85-94.

Briggs, Charles and Clara Mantini-Briggs. 2016. *Tell Me Why My Children Died: Rabies, Indigenous Knowledge, and Communicative Justice*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Week 10, November 30 **Speculative Futures**

Nelson, Alondra. 2002. "Introduction: Future Texts." *Afrofuturism*, a special issue of *Social Text* 71.

Jasanoff, Sheila. 2015. "Future Imperfect: Science, Tech, and the Imaginations of Modernity." In *Dreamscapes of Modernity: Sociotechnical Imaginaries and the Fabrication of Power*. Sheila Jasanoff and San-Hyun Kim, eds. Chicago: Univ of Chicago Press.

Hopkinson, Nalo. 1998. *Brown Girl in the Ring*. Warner Books.