

SOC 150 Sociological Perspectives on Science & Technology

G.E.R. COURSE!

Tuesday/Thursday 12:45PM - 2:05PM

Science and technology are inextricably linked with every aspect of daily life. Our ideas of progress and advancement depend on assumptions about science, technology, rationality, and expertise, in areas from stem cell research and global warming to space exploration and quantum physics. Science and technology hold and exert an amazing amount of power to influence how we think and what we do, in every single area of our lives.

In this course we take a sociological approach to science and technology to ask some basic (and often unconsidered) questions about how science and technology work. We consider how the social forces that shape other aspects of our lives also shape, and are shaped by, science and technology, and we consider how the ways we produce science and technology both reflect and contribute to other social issues, such as gender and racial/ethnic stratification, government interference in private lives, religion in public life, and conflicting visions of humanity's future.

In addition to sociology, this course fulfills core requirements of the Science, Technology, and Society cognate, and it has been approved for GER Credit (Area III or V) for the College of Liberal Arts.