Course Description and Objectives:

This fourth year course in advanced anthropological theory and practice has the anthropology of science as its focus. In the past 40 years, sociocultural anthropologists have taken the ethnographic methods they systematized for studying exotic peoples in remote localities and applied them to scientific communities and practice. Social scientists have attempted to focus at the socioeconomic and political perspectives within which scientists are made and within which scientific facts and discoveries are constructed. Science and Technology Studies (STS) is an interdisciplinary and vast field in many ways and we are going to attempt to read in a variety of directions within it.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of this course, we will make an effort to focus on some of the key theoretical texts and ethnographic products that have appeared within the fields of knowledge that interconnect with the Anthropology of Science – Sociology of Science, Science and Technology Studies, Philosophy of Science, etc. This course is expected to provide the students with the intellectual tools to understand the essential principles of STS and the kinds of ethnographic “insights” that support the study of science as a social and political phenomenon.

The course is divided in two main topics. One topic is the history on the discipline, including some anthropological precedents, and the ongoing and controversial legacy of French philosopher and anthropologist Bruno Latour. Latour’s *Laboratory Life* (with Steve Woolgar) symbolized one of the first ethnographic investigations of scientific practice, but Latour’s more recent work has extended into political philosophy, and efforts to reorganize fundamental categories and methods of social science. The second topic is the result of approaches derived from ethnographic studies of science “beyond the laboratory,” to more “field based” scientific subjects outside the conventional scrutiny of science studies.

Course Reading:

No textbook is required for this course. There are a number of articles and book chapters that are required reading and are listed below for each week. All are available electronically at the course website.
Course Requirements and Grading:

Weekly Writing Assignments (60% of the final grade): These are short essays of the readings that are due at the end of the class (to be printed and delivered as a hard copy). It is expected that you provide a brief summary of the readings, but do not be restricted to it. You should write a two page document (font Times New Roman 12 or Arial 10 – 1.5 space between the lines) evaluating the concepts, arguments, comparing them with other readings and using your paper as a guide to stimulate the discussions in the class. You are expected to write a third page bringing one example (from the internet, newspaper, media clipping, etc.) explaining how it relates to the reading assignments or the overall topic of the course. During the first half of each class, we will discuss the content of the reading material and in the second half of the class, students will present and discuss their case studies.

Here you have some suggestions to improve the quality of your weekly papers.

Try to get the big picture.
- What is the phenomenon being explained?
- What is the explanation offered?
- How does this apply to a specific observable phenomenon in social relations, in other words, what examples can you generate to illustrate the explanation offered?
With whom (or what alternative school of thought) might the author be arguing? Or, how does this explanation differ from other explanations for the same phenomenon?
Close textual reading.
- Find some portions of the text you want us to discuss for close reading and interpretation.
- Find portions that are difficult or unclear to you.
Find portions that you think exemplify the author's most important insights

Students are required to deliver nine papers during the semester and allowed to miss one delivery without penalty to the final grade.

Final Project Presentation (40% of the final grade): You will choose one of the books from the Recommended Readings' list and will present it in the last the day of class. You should write and present in class a written document (10-15 pages double spaced) introducing the main arguments of the book and dialoguing with relevant debates on STS seen during the course. A handout will be provided explaining this assignment in details.

Class Participation – Students are expected to attend all classes, critically read the assigned materials prior to class and participate in class discussions and assignments. Since this is a fourth year advanced seminar course, it relies upon the participants’ capacity to contribute in a fruitful discussion in the seminar meetings. This means that each student should be familiar with the central arguments of the required readings, and be able to develop opinions on the connections/disconnections in the larger body of readings for the week and across the term. Missing more than one class for reasons other than justified emergencies and illness will result in a 10% final grade deduction for each absence. Students who miss three classes without a reasonable justification will automatically fail the course.
General Course Policies:

1. It is expected that students will be respectful of their fellow students, their instructor, and cultures and traditions which are not their own.

2. Plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writings, etc., that belong to someone else. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Violation of the university’s policy will result in a grade penalty or failure of the course.

3. Assignments must be delivered on time. Penalties will be applied for late or not delivered assignments.

4. The final date to drop the course is November 8, 2019.

5. This course outline is subject to minor changes during the course of the semester.

Course Schedule

Week 1:
(Class 1, Sept-6): Introduction, Course Outline Presentation and Film Exhibition

Week 2:
(Class 2, Sept-13) Philosophy of Science and the early years of Science and Technology Studies


Week 3:
(Class 3, Sept-20) Anthropological precedents


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<th>Week 4:</th>
<th>Anthropology discovers science and laboratory</th>
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<th>Week 5:</th>
<th>The nature of reality</th>
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<th>Week 6:</th>
<th>When Objects Object</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7:</th>
<th>Reading Week</th>
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<td>(No Class: Thanksgiving &amp; Study Week, Oct 14-18)</td>
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<th>Week 8:</th>
<th>Biotechnologies and the influence of Biocapital</th>
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**Week 9:**

**Kinship issues and reproductive technologies**


**Week 10:**

**Cyborgs: beneath and beyond the anatomical borders**


**Week 11:**

**Gender as an analytical category**


**Week 12:**

**The unborn and the undead**


**Week 13:**

**Final Project Presentations**

(Class 12, Nov-29)
Recommended Readings:


Desire2Learn

The course uses Desire2Learn for its course website. To access the course website, or any other Desire2Learn-based course website, go to the LU portal login page at https://lakeheadu.desire2learn.com/ and log in using your LU username and password. Once you have logged in to the portal, look for the mycourselink module, where you will find the link to our course website along with the link to all other Desire2Learn-based courses you are registered.

Accessibility Needs

Lakehead University is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.