

STS 101 Introduction to Science, Technology and Society
Syllabus
Spring 2009

Note: *The Instructor reserves the right to update this syllabus. If he does so, he will notify you via email of the changes.*

Instructor Information

Instructor: William A. Foster, PhD
Office: 251R, Santa Catalina, ASU Polytechnic
Phone: 520-440-0807 (cell) Feel free to call in the evening or over the weekend
Email: wafoster@asu.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, by appointment.

Class Days and Time

Class meets at 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm on Monday and Wednesday.

Please let me know if you can not make class. If needed, you can teleconference in using Breeze.

Course Description: This course is meant to serve as an introduction to the study of science, technology, and society (STS). No one would dispute the fact that science and technology have transformed human society and that they will continue to do so. This course will provide an opportunity for students to think critically about science and technology and to explore the choices we as a global society face around science and technology issues. Topics that will be studied in the course include:

- ◆ Climate Change (both global warming and global cooling)
- ◆ Applied Genomics
- ◆ Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- ◆ Medicine and Health
- ◆ Space Travel
- ◆ National Security (preventing nuclear terrorism)

Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop a better understanding of their career options in science or technology fields and what they can do to prepare for careers in the field of their choice.
- Students will be able to articulate the societal issues involved in science and technology.
- Students will understand possible methodological options for the study of STS.
- Students will begin to hone their ability to do research in STS including the ability to build expertise in a very specific area and the ability to deal with the immense amount of video and text information that is available.
- Students will develop skills with social networking tools including Blackboard, Wikis, Blogs, and YouTube,.

- Students will hone their writing skills, particularly the ability to write short essays with a enticing thesis sentence, a body that justifies the thesis, and a conclusion.
- Students will be able to work in on-line teams.

About the Instructor

William Abbott Foster, PhD has worked at the intersection of information technology and governance for 25 years. He is a Faculty Associate in the Science, Technology and Society program at Arizona State University Polytechnic. He also runs a management consulting firm, Foster and Brahm (<http://www.FosterandBrahm.com>). He has a Bachelors degree in Religion with a minor in Economics from Williams College in Massachusetts. He has a PhD in Management from the University of Arizona and a minor in Chinese studies. His dissertation on the *Diffusion of the Internet in China* was published by CISAC at Stanford University in 2001. His books and articles are available at <http://www.FosterandBrahm.com>. He has been interviewed on Public Radio International and quoted in the New York Times, the Arizona Republic, the Washington Post and other print media. His research team, the MOSAIC Group (<http://MOSAIC.UNOmaha.edu/gdi.html>) has studied Internet diffusion in 40 countries. They are known as the “Sociologists of the Internet”.

Course Blackboard™ Site

I have established a *Blackboard™* site for this course. It includes course documents, a course grade book, links to sites with information relating to course concepts and topics, and discussion areas. To access the site, click on “myASU” on the ASU homepage or point your browser to <https://my.asu.edu>. I will write comments on all Safe Assignment submissions. When you get a grade go back to assignments to read the comments.

Required Course Textbook

- *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Science, Technology and Society, Eighth Edition.* Thomas Easton. Make sure to get the Aug. 15, 2008 edition by McGraw Hill.

Graded Work

Discussion Board

You are expected to actively participate on the class discussion board. The weeks when a discussion question is due, on the Sunday I will create a forum and assign a reading and or video for that week. I will ask a specific question for you to address on the discussion board. I will also email you the reading and the question. By Thursday, I would like you to provide a substantive response to the question. You should point the class to at least one website or an idea in *Taking Sides* that backs up your answer. You will have until Sat. midnight to post a minimum of two responses to your classmates posts.

I will assign a maximum of 15 points to your participation in each forum. You will get 5 points for participating. Upto 5 points for the quality of your response. Upto 3 points for your responses to two of your classmates posts. Upto 2 points for your pointers to other sources.

When pointing to a website or video, you should provide a short explanation about what it is about and why the reader should click on it.

Essays

You will write three 500 to 1000 word essays that draw from the material we are studying. You are not expected to re-capitulate the text. Rather, I expect you to come up with a thought provoking thesis that you can argue for in three to four paragraphs. You are encouraged to think outside the box. You can use the citation system you are comfortable with. Past students have often found an article on the Web that they can organize their essay around.

I will assign an issue from to write about. You, however, can submit an essay on any issue that you find compelling.

Your essays should be submitted through the designated slot in Safe Assignment which is accessed through Assignments in Blackboard. You will receive up to a 100 points for each essay.

Mid-Term quiz

There will be a Blackboard based mid-term quiz. You will have two hours to take the quiz. You can do it anytime on the week that it is assigned. You will receive upto 100 points for the quiz.

Group Project

We will collectively right a Wiki on preventing nuclear terrorism. You can use Wikipedia (<http://www.Wikipedia.org>) to learn about the topic, but I want you to develop a Wiki entry that is better than the one found on Wikipedia, if it is found at all. I will set up a Wiki for you using the ASU system. This wiki can not be seen from outside of ASU and will require your user name and password.

I would like an overview of the scientific discovery or the technology along with insights into who is funding such research and development (R&D) and what the societal implications of this R&D.

You are encouraged to integrate self-generated video into your site.

You will use the format of Wikipedia including citations format.

You are also encouraged to take what you are learning and post it to Wikipedia and see whether it sticks.

You will keep a personal diary of your experience with the group and the whole group project. You will submit the diary through Safe Assignment. This diary will be between approximately 500 to 1000 words. It can be in the form of an essay or a more traditional diary.

You will receive 200 points for the Wiki. Team members may receive different scores based on contributions.

Grading

As the following table suggests, all of the work in the course is important because all of it is designed to help you achieve the general learning goals.

Assignment	Points
Blackboard Discussions (15 points per forum)	120
1 page essays (100 points per essay)	300
Mid-term	100
Group Project	200
Class Room Participation	100
Total	820

Course Policies

Missing Work: Please note that if you don't submit written work, you will receive a zero for that work.

Late Work: If any of your essays are late, I will reduce your grade by 10% for each weekday that it's late.

Incomplete Grades: A course grade of "Incomplete" will be given only in extreme situations because the sad story is that most students who request incompletes never finish the course. Please visit <http://www.asu.edu/registrar/forms/regforms.html> under the Academic Record Forms section for the Incomplete Grade Request form, which is available in both *Word* and as a PDF. The form must be completed by the student, signed by the student, the instructor, and the department chair or school director. The completed form must be filed with Janice Frangella (Santa Catalina Hall, Room 233V) before the grade of "I" is given.

Student Conduct: Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in Arizona Board of Regents Policy Manual Chapter V – Campus and Student Affairs: Code of Conduct (http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_regents/policymanual/chap5/chapter_v.htm#C.%20CODE%20OF%20CONDUCT), ACD 125: Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications (<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd125.html>), and the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy (http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/judicial/academic_integrity.htm).

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. If a student is disruptive, an instructor may ask the student to stop the disruptive behavior and warn the student that such disruptive behavior can result in withdrawal from the course. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process under USI 201-10 (<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi201-10.html>).

Accommodations for Disabilities: Accommodations for disabilities will be made according to the policy of Arizona State University in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have concerns not addressed by these policies, reasonable accommodations may be made

contingent upon circumstances and the approval of the instructors and administrators in the College of Education. For more details about ASU's Disability Resource Center, point your browser to <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/>.

The Public Nature of the Class (Writing and Discussion): Part of becoming an effective writer is learning to appreciate the ideas and criticisms of others, and in this course our purpose is to come together as a community of writers. Remember that you will often be expected to share your writing with others. Avoid writing about topics that you may not be prepared to subject to public scrutiny or that you feel so strongly about that you are unwilling to listen to perspectives other than your own. You are free to express your perspectives in writing and discussion, but you also need to write responsibly, contemplating the possible effects on others and on yourself.

Keeping Your Work: Please keep your work after any course has ended. You may need it for such things as grade appeals.

Labeling Work: To avoid confusion, please label all of your work carefully. Include your name, the course prefix and number, the date of submission, the assignment label, some indication of the version, and a descriptive title. For instance:

Kirsti Brones
STS 101
October 9, 2008
Paper on Jungk

The ethical issues of third world nuclear scientists

Student Support Services

Polytechnic campus site: <http://www.poly.asu.edu/students/services/>

The Writing Center at the Polytechnic Campus: The Polytechnic Writing Center offers tutoring services to all students on any sort of writing project. Writing tutors can help with any stage of the writing process, including choosing a topic, brainstorming, clarifying a thesis, organization of ideas or paragraphs, grammar, citation styles, and more. The Center is located in the Academic Center Building on the Lower Level and will be open for the Fall 2008 semester beginning Tuesday, September 2. Tutors' availability will be posted on our website at <http://studentsuccess.asu.edu/polytechnic/writingschedule>. Although walk-ins are accepted, it is strongly recommended that you make an appointment. Please call (480) 727-1452 to schedule an appointment. Online tutoring is also available if you cannot come in. Visit the Writing Center's website (<http://studentsuccess.asu.edu/polytechnic/writing>) for more information.

ASU Libraries - offers 24/7 access to librarians through "Ask a Librarian" online chat and help by librarians in person at the Reference Desk during most hours the libraries are open.
www.asu.edu/lib/

Polytechnic campus link: <http://library.poly.asu.edu/>

Counseling and Consultation – provides confidential mental health and career counseling services for all ASU students. <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/counseling/>

Polytechnic campus site (Student Counseling Services):

<http://www.poly.asu.edu/students/counseling/>

Student Success Centers – the Student Success Center (SSC) on each ASU campus provides an array of support services that promote students' academic success. The SSC supports classroom instruction by helping students become better learners and gain the confidence and skills to achieve their greatest possible academic success. <http://studentsuccess.asu.edu/>

The Student Success Center at the Polytechnic Campus provides a variety of support services that promote students' academic success. The SSC's programs help students to become better learners and to gain the confidence and skills to do well in their courses. At the Polytechnic campus, the SSC provides the following services FREE of charge to ASU students: (1) subject area tutoring, (2) writing tutoring for any writing assignment, (3) supplemental instruction for MAT 170 and CHM 113, (4) academic success workshops on topics like reading strategies and studying for exams, and (5) individual as well as group study space. For questions, please call (480) 727-1452 or stop by. For more information and for tutoring schedules, please visit our web site at <http://studentsuccess.asu.edu/polytechnic>. The SSC is located in the Academic Center Building (CNTR) on the Lower Level. To see a campus map, please visit http://www.asu.edu/map/pdf/asu_map_poly_2008.pdf.

Career Services – offers assistance to students in choosing a major, setting career goals, interviewing and job hunting strategies. <http://career.asu.edu/>

Polytechnic campus site: <http://www.poly.asu.edu/students/career/>

Student Financial Aid Office – offers information and applications for student funding such as grants, loans, scholarships and student employment. www.asu.edu/fa/

Polytechnic campus site: <http://www.asu.edu/fa/> (same as general ASU site)

Student Health and Wellness Center – provides non-emergency medical health care to all ASU students regardless of insurance status. Most visits with a physician or nurse practitioner are free of charge, but fees will be incurred for x-rays, lab results, etc. www.asu.edu/health/

Polytechnic campus site: <http://www.poly.asu.edu/students/health/>

Student Recreational Center – offers individual and group fitness opportunities, as well as information on nutrition and wellness, and massages. Use of the general facilities (weights, circuit training and cardio machines) are free, other services (yoga classes, massages) are fee-based. www.asu.edu/src/

Polytechnic campus site: <http://www.poly.asu.edu/pac/>

Student Legal Assistance – provides legal advice and counsel free of charge to all ASU students in areas such as landlord-tenant law, credit reports and collection issues, taxability of scholarships and grants, etc. Notary service is also available at no charge.

<http://www.asu.edu/mu/legal/>

Help Wiki – provides a frequently asked questions resource for technology users at ASU.

<http://wiki.asu.edu/help/>

Information Technology on the Polytechnic campus: <http://www.poly.asu.edu/it/>

EMPACT Crisis Hotline – offers free 24-hour support for mental health crises. Call (480) 784-1500 in the Phoenix area, (866) 205-5229 for the toll-free number outside of Phoenix, and (480) 736-4949 for the sexual assault hotline. All services are free and confidential.

<http://www.empact-spc.com/>

Class Schedule

Week Starting	Subject Matter	Deliverables
Jan. 21st	Introduction	
Jan 26 th	Climate Change	
Feb. 2	Climate Change	Essay due Jan. 4
Feb. 9	Applied Genomics	
Feb. 16 th	Applied Genomics	Essay due Feb. 18th
Feb. 23 rd	Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	
March 2 nd	ICTs	
	Midterm	
March 7 th	Spring Break	
March 16th	Space Travel	
March 23rd	Space Travel	Essay on Space Travel due March 25 th .
March 30 th	Health	
March 6th	Health	
March 13 th	Nuclear Terrorism	
March 20 th	Nuclear Terrorism	March 22 nd Wiki Completed on Nuclear Terrorism
March 27 th Determined (TBD)	TBD	March 29 th Diary on Wiki

		Project Due.
May 4 th	Conclusion and Party	
End of Semester		No Final Exam