

Science Studies Program

GRADUATE
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

2025-2026

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Program Overview

The Science Studies Program (SSP) at UCSD was established in 1989. At present, the Program has thirteen core faculty members and fifty-seven graduate students from the Program's five 'home' departments of Anthropology, Communication, History, Philosophy, and Sociology. Students and faculty in the Program are seeking to understand science using the theories of methods of the humanities and social sciences. Some of the questions driving this metascientific approach are: How is scientific knowledge actually produced and applied in real places and times? What are the ethical implications of its production? What power structures uphold it? What power structures does it uphold? What is the relationship between science, technology, and society? The Program offers students an opportunity to learn the interdisciplinary field of science studies while at the same time receiving a thorough training at the professional level in their home discipline.

The heart of the program lies in its interdisciplinary seminars, both the 'Introduction to Science Studies' courses and the Core (topical) seminars. Students also attend a weekly colloquium series and participate in a field internship as part of their participation in the Program.

Students wishing to enter the Program must apply to one of the five participating departments – Anthropology, Communication, History, Philosophy, or Sociology. They will follow a distinctive course of study in each and participate in the Science Studies core series. The required seminars for incoming SSP students from all the fields present readings from the different disciplines and in some cases are co-taught.

Science Studies students spend much of their time in the first two years of graduate study taking the required courses for SSP. But after this point, they spend more time in their home departments developing expertise in their disciplines to prepare for their qualifying exams. SSP students are nonetheless encouraged to select dissertation topics that reflect the program's cross-disciplinary approach. The Ph.D. degree is awarded in "Anthropology (Science Studies)," "Communication (Science Studies)," "History (Science Studies)," "Philosophy (Science Studies)," or "Sociology (Science Studies)."

Affiliated Departments

Anthropology Department

The Department of Anthropology offers doctoral training with a specialization in Science Studies. The Science Studies concentration in Anthropology foregrounds the diverse sociocultural, historical, and political-economic relations that both invite and constrain scientific inquiry and technological development. Faculty affiliated with the Science Studies Program maintain research interests in the areas of medicine and psychiatry, militarism and warfare, money and financial technology, and coastal ecology. Participation is open to PhD students from all departmental sub-fields.

Communication Department

The Department of Communication offers a Ph.D. specialty that emphasizes the role of various communication technologies in Science Studies – from languages and maps to television and computer networks – in mediating human experience and shaping social and material environments. The curriculum in Communication is organized into three fields: Communication as a Social Force, Communication and Culture, and Communication and Human Information Processing. Science and Technology Studies in Communication considers how human beings, individually or institutionally, use communication systems to make sense of the world, define and design material artifacts (or the environment itself), or respond to the imposition of categories or discourse on people and things.

History Department

The Department of History offers graduate work leading to both M.A. and Ph.D. degrees with a concentration Science Studies. UCSD's Historians of Science have expertise in the histories of astronomy, biology, computer science, medicine, law, psychology, neuroscience, public health, and social science, as well as analytical proficiency in questions of law, policy, epistemology and ethics. The curriculum in History is divided into different fields: ancient history, East Asian history, European history, history of science, Judaic Studies, Latin American history, Middle Eastern history, and United States history. SSP-History students are expected to specialize in one or more of these areas of historical research as a minor field.

Philosophy Department

The Department of Philosophy offers a Ph.D. specializing in Science Studies that is designed to enable students to obtain an understanding of divergent philosophical traditions and to develop as philosophers in their own right. To this end, the department offers courses and seminars in the history of philosophy and in traditional and contemporary philosophical issues. The faculty in Philosophy affiliated with the Science Studies Program is particularly strong in the philosophy of physics, philosophy of the social sciences, science and social policy, philosophy of biology, philosophy of environment, and ethics of science and technology.

Sociology Department

The graduate program in Sociology offers a Ph.D. specializing in Science Studies with a curriculum covering the major fields of sociology. The department is organized around a set of four specializations: comparative and historical sociology, the sociology of culture, sociology of inequalities, and the sociology of science, technology, and medicine (STM). The students in SSP-Sociology must take classes outside the STM specialty but take a majority of their courses in STM and SSP. The Science Studies faculty in Sociology is particularly interested in the sociology of scientific knowledge, of medicine, of the social sciences, of mental health, of genetics, of economics, as well as the role of politics and social policy in science and technology.

Coursework and degree requirements

The academic year at UCSD runs from mid-September to mid-June. Formal teaching is given in three “quarters,” each ten weeks in length. The majority of the required classes run for only one quarter, but research seminars can be scheduled for two quarters. The Science Studies Colloquium Series (given for credit as one class each year) runs through the academic calendar year.

Most graduate courses in Science Studies take the form of small group seminars or independent study courses under the guidance of a faculty member. Students read extensively and prepare for discussion with the faculty. Most courses require term papers or essays, which may entail substantial reading and research. Not uncommonly, such papers become the basis for qualifying exam or field papers, and sometimes for chapters of the student’s dissertation. Many are turned into articles that are later submitted for publication.

Required courses in Science Studies (just like required departmental classes) must be taken for a letter grade (except the Colloquium Series, which is taken for a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade). Students are normally expected to take three courses per quarter. In addition to those taken for credit, students may audit courses (i.e. participate without being examined or graded).

Each department affiliated with the Science Studies Program has a graduate advisor to aid the student in designing a plan of study to meet requirements for the degree. Before the beginning of each quarter, and especially before the Fall quarter, it is recommended that students have their course choices approved by their home department faculty advisor or the program director to ensure they meet the relevant requirements.

PhD Dissertation Committees. The composition of Ph.D. committees for Science Studies students must comply with the [Manual of the San Diego Division, Academic Senate, Regulation 715](#). **As of Fall 2021, these are as follows:**

- There must be a minimum of 4 members with UC San Diego faculty appointments;
- At least 1 member must have a primary appointment in a different department than the chair's primary department;
- At least 2 members must be from the student's home department or program
- At least 1 member must be tenured or emeritus

To these general requirements **the Science Studies Program requires further that at least one member of the committee is a core faculty member of the Program.**

The requirements for Science Studies students pertaining to each department are detailed below, following the description of the Required Courses.

Required Courses for the Science Studies Program

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE STUDIES: PART I

ANTH 268, COGR 225A, HIGR 238, PHIL 209A, SOC 255A

Fall 2024

Instructor: Lisa Cartwright

Wednesday, 12:00pm-2:50pm, Arts & Humanities Bldg., Room RWAC 0474

Study and discussion of classic themes and texts in history of science, sociology of science, and philosophy of science, and of work that attempts to develop an interdisciplinary science studies approach.

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE STUDIES: PART II

ANTH 269, COGR 225D, HIGR 241, PHIL 209D, SOCG 255D

Winter 2025

Instructor: Martha Lampland

Tuesday, 9:00am-11:50am, Arts & Humanities Bldg., Room RWAC 0472

Continuing the introduction developed in Part I, this course examines recent key topics and problem situations in Science Studies. Emphasis is on recent theoretical perspectives and empirical studies in Communication, History, Philosophy, and Sociology of science and technology, and the interplay between them. *Prerequisites: completion of COGR 225A, HIGR 238, PHIL 209A, or SOCG 255A; or instructor's permission.*

SEMINAR IN SCIENCE STUDIES

ANTH 272, COGR 225B, HIGR 239, PHIL 209B, SOC 255B

Spring 2025

Instructor: Cathy Gere

Tuesday, 9:00am-11:50am, Arts & Humanities Bldg., Room RWAC 0472

Study and discussion of a selected topic in the Science Studies, with an emphasis on the development of research and writing skills. The topic varies from year to year.

SCIENCE STUDIES COLLOQUIUM

ANTH 273, COGR 225C, HIGR 240, PHIL 209C, SOC 255C

Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Spring 2025

Instructor: Kerry McKenzie

Monday, 12:00pm-2:50pm (the colloquium itself runs from 12.15pm-1.45pm).

Arts & Humanities Bldg., Room RWAC 0474

A forum for the presentation and discussion of research and progress in science studies by graduate students, faculty and visitors from both UCSD and other campuses. Students must attend the colloquium series for their entire first and second years. They receive course credit in one quarter each year. This course should be taken for a "S/U" grade option only. Students are required to make a colloquium presentation prior to their final defense.

Anthropology & Science Studies

Faculty Advisor: David Pedersen

COURSE WORK

(effective September 2020)

- Anthropology core requirements in Archeology, Biological, Linguistic, Psychological/Medical or Sociocultural (students chose 1 area of specialization)
 - Core requirements for students in Archeological Anthropology track
 - 280D (Archeological Anthropology)
 - 280E (Biological Anthropology)
 - Two of the remaining four core courses in Anthropology, selected in consultation with the student's assigned mentor.
 - Core requirements for students in Biological Anthropology
 - 280D (Archeological Anthropology)
 - 280E (Biological Anthropology)
 - Two of the remaining four core courses in Anthropology, selected in consultation with the student's assigned mentor.
 - Core requirements for students in the Sociocultural track:
 - 280A (Social Anthropology);
 - 280B (Cultural Anthropology)
 - 280C (Psychological Anthropology) or 280F (Linguistic Anthropology)
 - 280D (Anthropological Archaeology) or 280E (Biological Anthropology).
 - Core requirements for students in the Psychological/Medical track:
 - 280C (Psychological Anthropology);
 - 280D (Anthropological Archaeology) or 280E (Biological Anthropology);
 - Two of the following:
 - 280A (Social Anthropology), 280B (Cultural Anthropology) and/or 280F (Linguistic Anthropology).
- ANTH 268-Introduction to Science Studies: Part I
- ANTH 269-Introduction to Science Studies: Part II
- ANTH 272-Seminar in Science Studies (taken twice)
- ANTH 273-Science Studies Colloquium (two years of attendance is required)
 - Students must attend the colloquium series for their entire first and second years. They receive course credit in one quarter each year. This course should be taken for a "S/U" grade option only. Students are required to make a colloquium presentation prior to their final defense.
- Two seminars from SSP member departments other than Anthropology

Communication & Science Studies

Faculty Advisor: Kelly Gates

COURSE WORK

First Year:

- During the first year, students take the COGR 200 series, as well as COGR 294 and COGRS 296. All incoming graduate students in Communication must pass a first year exam based on the coursework from these classes to continue in the program. Students who fail a first year exam can retake the exam in their second year.
- Students also must take COGR 225A: Introduction to Science Studies: Part I, COGR 225D: Introduction to Science Studies: Part II, and COGR 225C: Science Studies Colloquium (S/U grade only). They are encouraged to take COGR 225B (the Core Seminar), but this is not required in the first year.

Additional coursework required for the oral exam:

- Two methodology courses (one of which can be in another SSP department)
- Four history/theory /seminar courses (two from Communication and two from SSP member departments)
- COGR 225B: Core seminar in Science Studies (taken twice)
- COGR 225C: Science Studies Colloquium (two years of attendance is required). Students must attend the colloquium series for their entire first and second years. They receive course credit in one quarter each year. This course should be taken for a “S/U” grade option only. Students are required to make a colloquium presentation prior to their final defense.

QUALIFYING EXAM

- The examining committee will conform to the SSP committee requirements as detailed above on page 5.
- Students write two oral exams for the qualifying examination, conducted by the student's Dissertation Committee. The first oral exam is based on two papers. The second oral exam is based on a dissertation prospectus. These two exams typically take place in one two-hour meeting with the Dissertation Committee, preferably by the end of a student's third year. The qualifying exams are intended to demonstrate breadth of knowledge as well as competence in an area in which one plans to carry out dissertation research. The purpose of these exams is to demonstrate command of a relevant body of research literature in the context of developing an approach to a significant issue, problem, or perspective in communication.
- One of the papers for the exam needs to be on a topic in Science or Technology Studies. In it, students are expected to demonstrate a proficiency in both the basic literature in science and technology studies, and more specialized literature related to the topic. The paper can be a literature review, per se, or an empirical study that displays the student's knowledge of the literature.

History & Science Studies

Faculty Advisors: Nydia Pineda de Ávila

COURSE WORK

- HIGR 238: Introduction to Science Studies: Part I
- HIGR 241: Introduction to Science Studies: Part II
- HIGR 239: Core seminar in Science Studies (taken twice)
- HIGR 240: Science Studies Colloquium –Students must attend the colloquium series for their entire first and second years. They receive course credit in one quarter each year. This course should be taken for a “S/U” grade option only. Students are required to make a colloquium presentation prior to their final defense.
- Two seminars from SSP member departments other than History
- Five courses in History
- Two two-quarter research seminars

The major field for SSP-History students should be one of the following: Science in the early Modern Europe, Science in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Science in the twentieth century, or another field of comparable breadth, defined in consultation with the major field advisor

SSP-History students also must prepare two minor fields, one being Science Studies and the other selected from the other fields offered by the department: a field of history of science not chosen as the major field; a second field of history, provided that it is concentrated on a period or region other than that chosen for the first minor field; or a related discipline, offered through another department (may be in the physical or life sciences).

QUALIFYING EXAM

- The examining committee will confirm the requirements on SSP committees as outlined above on page 5.
- Students take their oral qualifying exam after they have passed their minor field exams and have prepared a bibliography and prospectus for their major field.

Philosophy & Science Studies

Faculty Advisors: Kerry McKenzie & Nancy Cartwright

Students enrolled in the program choose one of the component disciplines for their major field of specialist studies (for students enrolled in the Department of Philosophy, this major field is, of course, philosophy), and are required to complete minor field requirements in the others. The core of the program, however, is a yearlong seminar in science studies, led by faculty from all participating departments.

Students may apply for admission to the interdisciplinary program at the same time that they apply to the Department of Philosophy, or at some point after entering UC San Diego. (All students wishing to transfer into any interdisciplinary program must do so prior to the end of the fifth quarter of residency.)

Students in philosophy/science studies are required to complete all of the requirements for the PhD in philosophy with the following seven amendments:

1. The student must attend the Science Studies Colloquium series for his or her entire first and second years. He or she will receive course credit (course 209C) in any two quarters of his or her choice (once in the first year and once in the second year, with exceptions to be considered by the director of science studies). This course is taken for an S/U grade option only.
2. Before defending his or her prospectus, the student must take Introduction to Science Studies I (209A), Introduction to Science Studies II (209D), and two iterations (with changed content) of the Core Seminar in Science Studies (209B). (These courses are required in addition to the proseminar in philosophy, which is required of all PhD students in philosophy.)
3. The student must, prior to defending his or her prospectus, take two additional science studies courses outside philosophy drawn from a list of approved courses available each year from the Science Studies Program office. (One course in one of the sciences may be substituted for one of these courses as part of an approved program of study.)
4. The distribution requirement is amended as follows: Before advancing to candidacy, a philosophy/science studies student must have completed nine seminars in philosophy distributed across the areas of (A) philosophy of science, (B) philosophy of mind and philosophy of language, (C) ethics and political philosophy, (D) metaphysics and epistemology, and (E) history of philosophy. Students must take at least one seminar from each of these five areas and at least two seminars from any four of these areas.
5. The course work requirement is amended as follows: Over the first two years, a philosophy/science studies student will normally take at least three courses/seminars per quarter. Besides graduate seminars in philosophy and science studies, these may include up to two independent studies in philosophy, upper-division courses in philosophy (those numbered 100–199), approved upper-division or graduate courses in science studies and affiliated departments, and, if the student is a teaching assistant, Philosophy 500 (Apprentice Teaching). (It should be noted that philosophy/science studies students who complete all the other requirements for science studies and who complete the amended distribution requirements for philosophy are thereby deemed to have completed the fourteen graduate seminars required of students prior to their advancing to candidacy.)
6. The student's program of study must be approved by the Department of Philosophy faculty adviser for science studies.

QUALIFYING EXAM

- The examining committee will confirm the requirements on SSP committees as outlined above on page 5.
- Students take their oral qualifying exam after all coursework requirements are completed and after the third year paper has been passed.

Sociology & Science Studies

Faculty Advisor: Dan Navon

COURSE WORK

(Effective September 2016)

- Soc/G 255A (Introduction to Science Studies);
- Soc/G 255D (Advanced Approaches to Science Studies);
- Soc/G 255B (Core Seminar in Science Studies -- special topic each year);
- Soc/G 255C Science Studies Colloquium (Two years of attendance is required). Students must attend the colloquium series for their entire first and second years. They receive course credit in one quarter each year. This course should be taken for a “S/U” grade option only.
- Soc/G 200 (Intro/Foundational Methods).
- Two quarters of sociological theory:
 - Soc/G 201 (Classical Sociological Theory),
 - Soc/G 202 (Contemporary Sociological Theory).
- One quarter of quantitative methods (Soc/G 205 and Soc/G 206), Students may take either 205 or 206 depending on their existing proficiency demonstrated to the faculty teaching the quantitative sequence that year. Students who demonstrate a background in quantitative methods may alternatively petition to opt out of this requirement and would in that case take an additional Sociology elective.
- Three additional quarters of methods. These may be chosen from Soc 203 (Field Methods), 204 (Text and Discourse Analysis), 207 (Comparative Historical Methods), and 227 (Ethnographic Film: Media Methods), 211 (Introduction to Computational Social Science), Soc/G206 Quantitative Methods II (if not taken to satisfy item 8 above), Research Practicum Soc/G252 and Soc/G 253 (this is a two quarter sequence). The second quarter of the two-quarter research seminar in history of science also counts toward this requirement.
- One seminar in the “sociology of science” here construed to include the sociology of medicine, technology, and knowledge. For example: Soc/G 234 Intellectual Foundations of the Study of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Soc/G 238 Survey of the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge, Soc/G 234 Contemporary Biomedicine, Soc/G 288 Knowledge Capitalism), Soc/G 247 Madness and Society, Soc/G 232 Advanced Approaches in the Sociology of Knowledge.
- One course in Communication, History, or Philosophy of science, technology, or medicine. Alternatively, students may take Soc255B for a second time
- Two elective courses in sociology, one of which may be a course in sociology of science, technology, medicine.

In addition, the Sociology Department requires that all of its students take Soc/G 208 (Faculty Research Seminar), and the Science Studies Program requires students to complete an internship requirement and to make a presentation in the colloquium series.

FIELD EXAMS, PAPERS, and PROSPECTUS GUIDELINES

SSP students will defend two field exams, to be completed by end of Winter quarter of Year 3.

Like all other Sociology students, Science Studies students in Sociology will defend two field exams in Year 3. The subject of each exam must match an ASA section name. Science Knowledge and Technology will almost certainly be one of the exams that all SSP students select. Then, they will choose a second exam in, for example, Economic Sociology, Political Sociology, Medical Sociology, Theory, etc. The reading lists for the two exams should be unique and separate. The 2 members of each committee must not overlap—please see the general [Sociology Field Exam Guidelines](#) for more information on format/timing/organization.

SSP students must hand in two papers by the end of Spring Quarter Year 3, one of which must be endorsed as “publishable.”

SSP students have two options for completing the paper requirement. They can *either* write:

- A publishable paper in the sociology of science + a secondary interdisciplinary paper completed with input from a non-sociology SSP faculty member. The second paper may simply be a research paper completed as part of a class taught by SSP faculty in another department.

OR

- A publishable interdisciplinary science studies paper + a secondary sociology paper. The sociology paper may simply be a research paper completed as part of a class taught by a sociology faculty member.

SSP students, like all Sociology students, must defend their prospectus by the end of Spring Quarter Year 4 and be prepared to submit their “publishable paper” from the previous year.

Again, please see the general Sociology guidelines for more information on preparing the prospectus and holding the defense.

Evaluation of Academic Work

The Science Studies Program expects all graduate students to perform at an “A” level and requires that they receive a B+ or better to meet requirements. All required courses must be taken for a letter grade. Students must maintain a GPA of a 3.5 or higher.

Language Requirements

SSP students with a departmental language requirement generally must demonstrate reading competency, meeting the MLA exam requirements or equivalent.

Anthropology: No language requirement

Communication: No language requirement.

History: Advisors must approve the language choice

Philosophy: No language requirement

Sociology: No language requirement

Examination/Dissertation

Home departments determine qualifying exams. Generally, this means two oral examinations: the qualifying exams and a dissertation defense. As noted above, in order to graduate in Science Studies at least one core faculty member must be included in the dissertation committee. Students must take examinations within the time limits set by their home department and the Division of Graduate Education and Doctoral Affairs (GEPA). All other time limits, such as support time limits, are likewise determined by the home department or GEPA.

Internship Opportunities

Internship Advisor: Kerry McKenzie

SSP students are advised to do at least one month of an internship before graduating. With the help of the SSP faculty, they may find placement in labs, research institutions, policy groups, museums, archives, environmental organizations, and science classes where they can follow the development and use of science or technology. Originally, these placements were meant to give students first-hand experience of scientific or engineering practice as part of their graduate studies. These types of internship include bench work in a scientific laboratory, curatorial experience in a science museum or archive, participation in field experimentations on a scientific expedition, working at a preservation laboratory, following public health workers at a hospital, making observations at an ICU, working on policy papers at a regulatory agency, etc.

At that students' initiation, the program director will meet with students to discuss a plan for their projects. Students need to submit to the director and program coordinator a 1 page abstract and a brief report (approximately 10 double-spaced pages) about their internship. This can be a journal written during the internship or a paper based on the internship experience. For students whose internship is unpaid, the program will provide a \$1,000 honorarium. Students must apply for these funds in the quarter prior to the internship. Students who have had substantial practical experience in some aspect of scientific work before enrolling in the Program may be excused from doing an internship with permission of the program director.

Colloquium Series

2025-2026 Colloquium Coordinator: Kerry McKenzie (Philosophy)

The Colloquium in Science Studies is built around a program of special lectures given by communication scholars, historians, sociologists, and philosophers of science from other universities. Along with guest speakers, there are talks by students in the program and faculty from UCSD (both in SSP and from departments in science and engineering. These discussions give students an opportunity to hear some leading scholars in the science studies field talk about their current research, learn from local scientists about their research and fields, and to meet informally with visitors. The colloquia take place every Monday of each quarter. Attendance is required during your first two years of residency. SSP students are required to present a colloquium talk prior to their final defense (typically after they advance to candidacy. This course should be taken for a S/U grade option only. This fulfills the colloquium course requirement.

Science Studies Program Faculty

Science Studies Program Director: Kerry McKenzie

Anthropology Department

David Pedersen, dpedersen@ucsd.edu

Communication Department

Lisa Cartwright, lisac@ucsd.edu

Kelly Gates, kagates@ucsd.edu

Lilly Irani, lirani@ucsd.edu

David Serlin, dserlin@ucsd.edu

Lillian Walkover, lwalkover@ucsd.edu

History Department

Tal Golan, tgolan@ucsd.edu

Nydia Pineda de Ávila, npinedadeavila@ucsd.edu

Philosophy Department

Nancy Cartwright, ncartwright@ucsd.edu

Kerry McKenzie, kmkenzie@ucsd.edu

Karen Kovaka, kkovaka@ucsd.edu

Sociology Department

Martha Lampland, mlampland@ucsd.edu

Daniel Navon, dnavon@ucsd.edu

Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra, jpardoguerra@ucsd.edu

Affiliated Faculty

Saiba Varma (Anthropology)

Christo Sims (Communication)

Caroline Jack (Communication)

Claire Edington (History)

Todd A. Henry (History)

Nir Shafir (History)

Matthew Vitz (History)

Reuven Brandt (Philosophy)

Science Studies Program Coordinator: Caroline Wells, please contact at ssadmin@ucsd.edu

Sciences Studies Program Assignments

Faculty Assignments

Director: Kerry McKenzie

Colloquium Coordinators: Martha Lampland, Sociology and David Pedersen, Anthropology

Faculty Advisors:

Anthropology: David Pedersen

Communication: Kelly Gates

History: Cathy Gere & Tal Golan

Philosophy: Kerry McKenzie & Nancy Cartwright

Sociology: Dan Navon

Admissions Committee: TBD

Anthropology:

Communication:

History:

Philosophy:

Sociology:

Student Assignments

GSA Reps: TBD beginning of Fall '25

Student Choice Speaker Reps: TBD beginning of Fall '25

Science Studies Courses

The following is a list of Science Studies courses from the UCSD General Catalog. Students should review the quarterly schedule of classes to find out which courses will be offered during a particular quarter.

SCIENCE STUDIES CORE COURSES

ANTH 268, COGR 225A, HIGR 238, PHIL 209A, SOCG 255A. Introduction to Science Studies: Part I
Study and discussion of classic themes and texts in history of science, sociology of science, and philosophy of science, and of work that attempts to develop an interdisciplinary science studies approach.
Prerequisite: Enrollment in Science Studies Program or consent of instructor.

ANTH 269, COGR 225D, HIGR 241, PHIL 209D, SOCG 255D. Introduction to Science Studies: Part II
Continuing the introduction developed in Part I, this course examines recent key topics and problem situations in Science Studies. Emphasis is on recent theoretical perspectives and empirical studies in Communication, History, Philosophy, and Sociology of science and technology, and the interplay between them. Prerequisites: completion of COGR 225A, HIGR 238, PHIL 209A, or SOCG 255A; or instructor's permission. Formerly "Advanced Approaches to Science Studies."

ANTH 272, COGR 225B, HIGR 239, PHIL 209B, SOCG 255B. Seminar in Science Studies
Study and discussion of a selected topic in the science studies field, with an emphasis on the development of research and writing skills. The topic varies from year to year.
Prerequisite: enrollment in Science Studies Program or permission of instructor.

ANTH 273, COGR 225C, HIGR 240, PHIL 209C, SOCG 255C. Colloquium in Science Studies
A forum for the presentation and discussion of research in progress in science studies, by graduate students, faculty, and visitors. Students must attend the colloquium series for their entire first and second years. They receive course credit in one quarter each year.
Prerequisite: enrollment in Science Studies Program

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 227. Living in an Emotional World (4)

This course examines the relationship between culture and emotions. It thinks about emotions as sources of knowledge, but also historicizes the delegitimization of emotions in social science and other disciplines. Each week, we will explore one emotion, including anger, shame, and hope. Prerequisites: graduate standing.

ANTH 267. Decolonizing Ethnography: Ethics, Politics, and Praxis (4)

Despite being foundational to the discipline of anthropology, ethnographic methods are often mystifying to graduate students. Students are expected to simply go into their respective field sites armed with a notebook, voice recorder, and hope. Drawing on feminist and decolonial epistemologies, we will examine, critique, and reconstruct ethnography's dilemmas, changing forms, and ethical stakes as we understand it as a particular mode of writing and representation. Prerequisites: graduate standing

COMMUNICATION

COGR 201D. Historical Methods for Communication Research (4)

Different approaches to conducting historical research in communication. Such approaches may include the social history of communication technology; structuralist and poststructuralist accounts of language, media, and collective memory; and new historicist treatments of cultural history. Sources, documentation, and the nature of argument from historical evidence are emphasized. Prerequisites: graduate standing or consent of instructor.

COGR 201M. Content Analysis (4)

History uses methodology of quantitative analysis of media content. Includes conceptual issues concerning the quantification of meaning and practical procedures for coding and data analysis. Students read examples of studies using content analysis and carry out their own pilot analyses. Prerequisites: graduate standing or consent of instructor.

COGR 243. Media Technologies (4)

Media technologies from books to electronic media. Consideration of both technological design processes and shifting uses of media. Reflection on media and broader patterns of technological innovation. Attention to the distinctive role of media in technological change. Prerequisites: graduate standing or consent of instructor.

COGR 275. Topics in Communication (4)

Specialized study in communication, with topics to be determined by the instructor for any given quarter.

HISTORY

HIGR 206. Histories of the Body (4)

Historical topics related to the human body as a target of regulation, a site for the production of knowledge, the locus of an identity shaped by race, gender, and sexuality, and/or in terms of movement across geopolitical boundaries.

HIGR 236A-B. Seminar in History of Science (4-4)

A two-quarter research seminar, comprising intensive study of a specific topic in the history of science. The first quarter will be devoted to readings and discussions; the second chiefly to the writing of individual research papers. The topic varies from year to year, and students may repeat the course for credit. (IP grade to be awarded the first quarter; final grade will be given at the end of the second quarter.) Prerequisites: graduate standing.

HISC 163/263. History, Science, and Politics of Climate Change (4)

The complex historical development of human understanding of global climate change, including key scientific work, and the cultural dimensions of proof and persuasion. Special emphasis on the differential political acceptance of the scientific evidence in the U.S. and the world. Graduate students are required to submit an additional paper. Prerequisites: upper-division or graduate standing; department stamp required.

HISC 167/267. Gender and Science (4)

Why have women been traditionally excluded from science? How has this affected scientific knowledge? How have scientists constructed gendered representations not only of women, but also of science and nature? We will address these questions from perspectives including history, philosophy, and psychoanalytic theory. Prerequisites: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

HISC 173/273. Seminar on Darwin and Darwinisms (4)

Examines evolutionary theory before Darwin, the development of the theory of natural selection, the ongoing challenge from Lamarckism, nineteenth-century social Darwinism, the emergence of the neo-Darwinist synthesis, and the recent controversies over evolutionary psychology and creationism. Graduate students are expected to submit an additional paper. Prerequisites: upper-division or graduate standing and department stamp.

HISC 180/280. Science and Public Policy (4)

This course will explore the evolution of the institutions, ideologies, procedures, standards, and expertise that modern democratic societies have used in applying science to generate and legitimate public policy. Graduate students are required to submit an additional paper. Prerequisites: upper-division or graduate standing and department stamp required.

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 204A. Core Course in Philosophy of Science (4)

An introduction to one or more central problems in the philosophy of science, or in the philosophy of one of the particular sciences, such as the nature of confirmation and explanation, the nature of scientific knowledge, reductionism, the unity of science, or realism and antirealism. May be taken for credit three times with changed content.

PHIL 245. Philosophy of Science (4)

This seminar will cover current books and theoretical issues in the philosophy of science. May be taken for credit seven times with changed content.

PHIL 280. Philosophy of Science Topics and Methods (1–2)

This course meets weekly to discuss recent books or articles in philosophy of science. The reading is designed both for students doing active research in the field and for those seeking to gain some familiarity with it. Can be taken nine times for credit with changed content. Prerequisites: graduate standing or consent of instructor.

PHIL 285. Seminar on Special Topics (4)

(This course is only applicable for Science Studies credit when topic is Philosophy of Science.) Focused examination of specific problems or themes in some area of philosophy. May be taken for credit nine times with changed content.

SOCIOLOGY

SOCG 234. Intellectual Foundation of the Study of Science, Technology, and Medicine (4)

This course focuses on some classic methodological and theoretical resources upon which the sociology of science, technology, and medicine all draw. It gives special attention to relationships between knowledge and social order, and between knowledge and practice, that are common to science, technology, and medicine. Prerequisites: graduate standing.

SOCG 238. Survey of the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge (4)

An introduction to some enduring topics in the sociology of scientific knowledge and to some resources for addressing them. Attention is drawn to problems of accounting for scientific order and change, and to recurrent debates over the proper method for sociological accounts of science. Prerequisites: graduate standing.

SOCG 247. Madness and Society (4)

An examination of the changing Western responses from the age of Bedlam to the age of Prozac. Topics include: the rise and decline of the total institution; the emergence of psychiatry; changing cultural meanings of madness; and the therapeutics of mental disorder. Prerequisites: graduate standing.

SOCG 284. Contemporary Biomedicine (4)

Develops central themes in medical sociology in order to understand twentieth- and twenty-first-century medical practice and research. Topics include authority and expertise; health inequalities; managed care; health activism; biomedical knowledge production; and the construction of medical objects and subjects. Prerequisites: graduate standing.

SOCG 283. The Making of Modern Medicine

An examination of the intellectual, social, cultural, and political dimensions of the Transformation of Western medicine from 1750 to 1900, with a primary focus on Anglo-American developments.

SOCG 284. Contemporary Biomedicine

Develops central themes in medical sociology in order to understand twentieth- and twenty-first-century medical practice and research. Topics include authority and expertise; health inequalities; managed care; health activism; biomedical knowledge production; and the construction of medical objects and subjects.

SOCG 288. Knowledge Capitalism

This seminar examines the place of scientific knowledge and information and communication technology in the transformation of capitalist economy and society. The class explores new interactions between science studies and the social theory of advanced capitalism.