

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY (STS)

Undergraduate Subjects

Tier I Subjects

STS.001 Technology in American History

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

A survey of America's transition from a rural, agrarian, and artisan society to one of the world's leading industrial powers. Treats the emergence of industrial capitalism: the rise of the factory system; new forms of power, transport, and communication; the advent of the large industrial corporation; the social relations of production; and the hallmarks of science-based industry. Views technology as part of the larger culture and reveals innovation as a process consisting of a range of possibilities that are chosen or rejected according to the social criteria of the time.

D. A. Mindell

STS.002 Finance and Society

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Examines finance as a social technology intended to improve economic opportunity by moving capital to where it is most needed. Surveys the history of modern finance, from medieval Italy to the Great Depression, while addressing credit, finance and state (and imperial) power, global financial interconnection, and financial crises. Explores modern finance (since about 1950) from a variety of historical and social-scientific perspectives, covering quant finance, financialization, the crisis of 2007-2008, and finance in the digital age. Enrollment limited.

W. Deringer

STS.003 Ancient Greeks to Modern Geeks: A History of Science

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Covers the development of major fields in the physical and life sciences, from 18th-century Europe through 20th-century America. Examines ideas, institutions, and the social settings of the sciences, with emphasis on how cultural contexts influence scientific concepts and practices.

Staff

STS.004 Intersections: Science, Technology, and the World

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Exposes students to multidisciplinary studies in Science, Technology, and Society (STS), using four case studies to illustrate a broad range of approaches to basic principles of STS studies. Case studies vary from year to year, but always include a current MIT event. Other topics are drawn from legal and political conflicts, and arts and communication media. Includes guest presenters, discussion groups, field activities, visual media, and a practicum style of learning. Enrollment limited.

Staff

STS.005[*J*] Data and Society

Same subject as 11.155[*J*], IDS.057[*J*]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Introduces students to the social, political, and ethical aspects of data science work. Designed to create reflective practitioners who are able to think critically about how collecting, aggregating, and analyzing data are social processes and processes that affect people.

E. Medina, S. Williams

STS.006[*J*] Bioethics

Same subject as 24.06[*J*]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

See description under subject 24.06[*J*].

R. Scheffler

STS.008 Technology and Experience

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Provides sociological, psychological, and anthropological methods to examine how technologies shape and are shaped by individual and social relations, perceptions, habits, moods, and sensibilities. Topics vary, but may include how automation structures understandings of time, work, and identity; how social media affects attention, creativity, aesthetics, and emotion; how pharmaceuticals reshape feelings, pain, and pleasure; how technologies of destruction mediate notions of the body, environment, and futurity; and how forensic technologies create new forms of space, exclusion, and belonging. Includes in-class discussion of assigned materials, short written and multimedia assignments, and final project.

Enrollment limited.

I. Saraf

STS.009 Evolution and Society

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Provides a broad conceptual and historical introduction to scientific theories of evolution and their place in the wider culture. Embraces historical, scientific and anthropological/cultural perspectives grounded in relevant developments in the biological sciences since 1800 that are largely responsible for the development of the modern theory of evolution by natural selection. Students read key texts, analyze key debates (e.g. Darwinian debates in the 19th century, and the creation controversies in the 20th century) and give class presentations.

R. Scheffler

STS.011 Engineering Life: Biotechnology and Society

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Provides instruction in the history of humanity's efforts to control and shape life through biotechnology, from agriculture to gene editing. Examines the technologies, individuals and socio-economic systems that are associated with such efforts, as well as the impact that these efforts have on society and science as a whole. Explores these issues with particular attention to the development of the modern biotechnology industry in the Greater Boston area. Includes a field trip.

R. W. Scheffler

STS.012[J] Science in Action: Technologies and Controversies in Everyday Life

Same subject as WGS.120[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

2-0-7 units. HASS-S

Explores how science and technology impact everyday life, through the lens of current controversies and debates. Students examine the role of scientific research, the tensions between human and technological boundaries, and how politics and culture shape technological practice. Subject materials draw from humanities and social science scholarship, documentaries, and other multimedia to explore science's dynamic and contested relationship with social life and cultural ideas. Students work to develop critical perspectives on how scientific practice intersects with society.

Staff

STS.014 Embodied Education: Past, Present, Future

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

2-1-9 units. HASS-S

Explores the untapped capacities of the human body as a medium for teaching and learning in an era of technology-centered educational innovation. Readings survey cognitive science, exercise science, studies of embodied learning, and research on the history of education. Lab exercises demonstrate how physical activity can enhance academic instruction and invite students to create future curricula. Students who enroll may receive both HASS-S credit and may enroll to earn two Physical Education and Wellness (PE&W) points. Limited enrollment.

J. S. Light, C. Sampson Moore

Tier II Subjects

STS.020[J] History of Women in Science and Engineering

Same subject as WGS.123[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject WGS.123[J].

M. Weinstock

STS.021[J] Science Activism: Gender, Race, and Power

Same subject as WGS.160[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-E

See description under subject WGS.160[J].

E. Bertschinger

STS.022[J] Gender, Race, and Environmental Justice

Same subject as 21A.407[J], 21G.057[J], WGS.275[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Provides an introduction to the analysis of gender in science, technology, and environmental politics from a global perspective. Familiarizes students with central objects, questions, and methods in the field. Examines existent critiques of the racial, sexual and environmental politics at stake in techno-scientific cultures. Draws on material from popular culture, media, fiction, film, and ethnography. Addressing specific examples from across the globe, students also explore different approaches to build more livable environments that promote social justice. Taught in English. Limited to 18.

B. Stoetzer

STS.023[J] Science, Gender and Social Inequality in the Developing World

Same subject as WGS.226[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject WGS.226[J].

A. Sur

STS.024[J] Thinking on Your Feet: Dance as a Learning Science

Same subject as CMS.524[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-A

Explores the past, present, and future of dance as a learning science. Combines readings and discussion with experiential learning. Readings span the science of movement and learning, studies of educational dance, and research on school reform. Lab exercises led by guest artists introduce the rich possibilities of dance for teaching subjects across the curriculum. For their final project, students choreograph a lesson on a topic of their choosing. This is an introductory class; no dance background is required. Students may enroll to earn two Physical Education and Wellness (PE&W) points. Limited to 24 students.

J. S. Light

STS.031[J] Environment and History

Same subject as 12.386[J], 21H.185[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

See description under subject 21H.185[J]. Enrollment limited.

K. Brown, S. Solomon

STS.032 Energy, Environment, and Society

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Uses a problem-solving, multi-disciplinary, and multicultural approach that takes energy beyond the complex circuits, grids, and kilojoules to the realm of everyday life, with ordinary people as practitioners and producers of energy knowledge, infrastructures, and technologies. The three main objectives are to immerse students in the historical, cultural, multi-cultural, and entrepreneurial aspects of energy across the world to make them better energy engineers; to introduce them to research and analytical methods; and to deploy these methods and their various skills to solve/design a solution, in groups, to a specific energy problem chosen by the students. Each cohort tackles a different energy problem. Provides instruction on how to be active shapers of the world and to bring students' various disciplinary skills and cultural diversity into dialogue as conceptual tools for problem-solving. Enrollment limited.

C. Mavhunga

STS.034 Science Communication: A Practical Guide

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Develops students' abilities to communicate about science and technology effectively and to analyze science communication in a variety of real-world contexts. Considers tools, media, and strategies to engage polarized publics, audiences, and communities traditionally excluded from scientific discussions. Provides a theoretical and practical background in science communication — from citizen science, podcasts, and AI to art, science slams, and exhibitions — culminating in the development of a final science communication project to be presented in the MIT Museum. Enrollment limited.

*M. J. Gorman***STS.035 Exhibiting Science**

Prereq: One CI-H/CI-HW subject and permission of instructor

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-2-8 units. HASS-A

Project-based seminar covers key topics in museum communication, including science learning in informal settings, the role of artifacts and interactives, and exhibit evaluation. Students work on a term-long project, organized around the design, fabrication, and installation of an original multimedia exhibit about current scientific research at MIT. Culminates with the project's installation in the MIT Museum's Mark Epstein Innovation Gallery. Limited to 20; preference to students who have taken STS.034.

*Staff***STS.036 Science in American Life: 1920-2020**

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Assesses the place of science in American public life from the 1920s to the present. Takes a historically inflected approach to examine the social relations of science in the modern United States. Examines science and (in turn) religion, warfare, health, education, the environment, and human rights to explore how an international leader in science is also home to some of the developed world's most persistent forms of "science denialism." Examples include the denial of evolution, human-induced climate change, and particular medical-scientific aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Staff***STS.037[*J*] Modern South Asia (New)**Same subject as 21H.157[*J*]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21H.157[*J*].*S. Aiyar, D. Banerjee***STS.038 Risky Business: Food Production, Environment, and Health**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

2-1-9 units. HASS-H

Follows the shifts in food production between small-holder, local production to large-scale industries and back again to "localvore" food production in the 19th and 20th centuries. Tracks how people grew anxious about health risks associated with modern food over time. In a weekly lab, students build a compost production facility and/or a segment of a perennial food forest. Discusses food politics, food security and justice, food sustainability and safety, and first steps in growing one's own food. Limited to 25.

*K. Brown***STS.039 History of Native Science**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Tracks the history of Indigenous knowledge and engagements with colonial US and settler science. Explores traditional ecological knowledge, naturalized knowledge systems, and decolonized research methods — among other frameworks — and how the field of Native science came to be. Introduces critical STS and Indigenous methods for translating and engaging Indigenous knowledge and history, and traces how science and indignity have been entangled through colonial and decolonial practice. Presents how Native science has been a galvanizing force for international research and policy on everything from climate science to genetics.

E. Nelson

STS.040 A Global History of Commodities

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Inspires students to think about production chains in ways that reflect their impact on the environment, labor practices, and human health. Examines how commodities connect distant places through a chain of relationships, and link people, e.g., enslaved African producers with middle-class American consumers, and Asian factory workers with Europeans taking a holiday on the beach. Studies how mass production and mass demand for commodities, such as real estate, bananas, rubber, corn, and beef, in the 20th century changed the way people worked, lived, and saw themselves as they adopted new technologies to produce and consume in radically different ways from their parents and grandparents. Assignments include creation of a board game for buying and selling real estate in Boston, a two-minute mini-documentary, and an article on a commodity and country. Limited to 25.

*K. Brown***STS.041 Exercise is Medicine: From Ancient Civilizations to Modern Health Care Systems**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

2-1-9 units. HASS-S

Explores the history of exercise in preventing and curing physical and mental illness. Combines readings and discussion with experiential learning. Doing Yoga and Qigong alongside readings on Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine enables students to viscerally experience concepts in medical history such as prana and chi; activities including Pilates and High Intensity Interval Training deepen students' understanding of the challenges integrating scientific discovery into everyday life. Students who enroll in this class may receive both HASS-S credit for it and may enroll to earn two Physical Education and Wellness (PE&W) points. Enrollment limited.

*J. S. Light, C. Sampson Moore***STS.042[JJ] Einstein, Oppenheimer, Feynman: Physics in the 20th Century**

Same subject as 8.225[JJ]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Explores the changing roles of physics and physicists during the 20th century. Topics range from relativity theory and quantum mechanics to high-energy physics and cosmology. Examines the development of modern physics within shifting institutional, cultural, and political contexts, such as physics in Imperial Britain, Nazi Germany, US efforts during World War II, and physicists' roles during the Cold War. Enrollment limited.

*D. I. Kaiser***STS.043 Technology and Self: Science, Technology, and Memoir**

Subject meets with STS.443

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

2-0-7 units. HASS-S

Focuses on the memoir as a window onto the relationship of creative people (scientists, engineers, designers, and others) to their work. Examines how class, race, ethnicity, family history, and trauma shape the person who shapes artifacts, experiments, and ideas. Readings explore the connection between material culture, identity, and personal development. Offers the opportunity, if desired, to examine personal experiences and write memoir fragments. Students taking graduate version write a longer final paper. Limited to 15; no listeners.

*S. Turkle***STS.044 Technology and Self: Things and Thinking**

Subject meets with STS.444

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

2-0-7 units. HASS-S

Explores emotional and intellectual impact of objects. The growing literature on cognition and "things" cuts across anthropology, history, social theory, literature, sociology, and psychology and is of great relevance to science students. Examines the range of theories, from Mary Douglas in anthropology to D. W. Winnicott in psychoanalytic thinking, that underlies "thing" or "object" analysis. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 15; no listeners.

S. Turkle

STS.046[] The Science of Race, Sex, and Gender

Same subject as 21A.103[], WGS.225[]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject WGS.225[].

A. Sur

STS.047 Quantified: Numbers, Metrics, and Society

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Historical examination of the quest to understand human society scientifically. Focuses on quantification, including its central role in the historical development of social science and its importance in the 21st-century data age. Covers the political arithmetic of the 17th century to the present. Emphasizes intensive reading of primary sources, which represent past attempts to count, calculate, measure, and model many dimensions of human social life (population, wealth, health, happiness, intelligence, crime, deviance, race). Limited to 25.

W. Deringer

STS.048 African Americans in Science, Technology, and Medicine

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

A survey of the contributions of African Americans to science, technology, and medicine from colonial times to the present. Explores the impact of concepts, trends, and developments in science, technology, and medicine on the lives of African Americans. Examples include the eugenics movement, the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, the debate surrounding racial inheritance, and IQ testing.

K. Manning

STS.049 The Long War Against Cancer

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Examines anticancer efforts as a critical area for the formation of contemporary biomedical explanations for health and disease. Begins with the premise that the most significant implications of these efforts extend far beyond the success or failure of individual cancer therapies. Considers developments in the epidemiology, therapy, and politics of cancer. Uses the history of cancer to connect the history of biology and medicine to larger social and cultural developments, including those in bioethics, race, gender, activism, markets, and governance.

R. W. Scheffler

STS.050 The History of MIT

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the history of MIT, from its founding to the present, through the lens of the history of science and technology. Topics include William Barton Rogers; the modern research university and educational philosophy; campus, intellectual, and organizational development; changing laboratories and practices; MIT's relationship with Boston, the federal government, and industry; and notable activities and achievements of students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Includes guest lecturers, on-campus field trips, and interactive exercises. Enrollment limited.

D. Douglas

STS.051 Documenting MIT Communities

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

2-0-7 units. HASS-H

Researches the history and culture of an MIT community to contribute to its documentation and preservation. Through the practice of doing original research, students learn about the history of an MIT community. Provides instruction in the methods historians use to document the past, as well as methods from related fields. Enrollment limited.

Staff

STS.053 Multidisciplinary Interactive Learning Through Problem-Solving

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-E

Interdisciplinary problem-solving at the intersection of humanities, science, engineering, and business. Team-taught face-to-face classes at multiple US and African universities connected live via Zoom. Divided into four sections/assessments: US and African histories, cultures, politics, and development relations; HASS as a problem-solving tool; STEM applications to real-life problem-solving; and introduction to summer field-class sites or exchange programs. Goal is to equip students with skills for team-based trans-disciplinary and cross-cultural problem-solving.

*C. C. Mavhunga***STS.055[J] Living Dangerously: Environmental Problems from 1900 to Today**

Same subject as 12.384[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

See description under subject 12.384[J]. Limited to 18.

*S. Solomon, K. Brown***STS.056 Social Life of the Brain: Neuroscience and Society**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Traces sociological, historical, and ethical dimensions of the mind and brain sciences. Explores the benefits, potentials, and pitfalls of brain technologies. Examines how social factors play a significant role in the development of brain research, translation of brain data, and the necessity of brain ethics. Cultivates discussions about the intersections between neuroscientific advancement on the one hand, and social relations, institutions, and power on the other. Topics include: personhood and development, brain scanning, artificial brains and life, embodiment and social differences, law and behavior, neuroplasticity, and neuro-enhancement.

*O. Rollins***STS.057 Sociology of Medicine, Health, and Illness (New)**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines why and how sociology matters for medicine and health. Readings draw from social science, humanities, and STEM to help students understand how the influence of biomedical knowledge, practices, and experiences impact health and health care. Explores how social forces manifest into health outcomes and inequalities and work to recognize the social practices that construct the development and use of biomedical knowledge. Surveys concepts such as social constructionism, health inequity, medical authority, health, biomedical technology (e.g., AI, neuroimaging, genomics), and medical ethics.

*O. Rollins***STS.059 The Bioeconomy and Society (New)**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Characterizes and examines the transformation of the production of fuels, foods, materials, and medicines through sustainable processes based on bacteria, fungi, algae, and plants, to inaugurate a biologically-based economy, or "bioeconomy." Studies this developing bioeconomy and its antecedent political, technological, and cultural events, as well as its potential social impacts. Includes guest speakers from policy, industry, and academia. Discusses the scientific research which offers outside perspectives on opportunities and challenges that the bioeconomy presents. Students work in project-based teams throughout the term to analyze the historical and contemporary dimensions of one feature of the bioeconomy.

*R. Scheffler***STS.060[J] The Anthropology of Biology**

Same subject as 21A.303[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 21A.303[J].

S. Helmreich

STS.064[] DV Lab: Documenting Science through Video and New Media

Same subject as 21A.550[]

Subject meets with 21A.559

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-3-6 units. HASS-A; CI-H

See description under subject 21A.550[]. Limited to 12.

C. Walley, C. Boebel

STS.065[] The Anthropology of Sound

Same subject as 21A.505[], CMS.406[]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 21A.505[].

S. Helmreich

STS.066 Discards, Technologies, and Everyday Ecologies (New)

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduces the study of our planet transformed by the things we make and throw away through analysis of the production, circulation, and management of different kinds of discards in connected cultural contexts. Topics may include technological obsolescence, maintenance and modern infrastructures, repurposing of machines and materials, waste and future-making, ideologies of social abjection and marginality, global commerce and the politics of materials, and the use of remainders in creative endeavors, among others. Explores creative modes of social inquiry including ethnography, visual analysis, making, and performance. Engaged participation expected for class activities and discussions.

I. Saraf

STS.074[] Art, Craft, Science

Same subject as 21A.501[]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Credit cannot also be received for 21A.509[], STS.474[]

See description under subject 21A.501[].

H. Paxson

STS.075[] Technology and Culture

Same subject as 21A.500[]

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

2-0-7 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 21A.500[]. Limited to 50.

H. Paxson

STS.081[] Innovation Systems for Science, Technology, Energy, Manufacturing, and Health

Same subject as 17.395[]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

2-0-7 units. HASS-S

Examines science and technology innovation systems, including case studies on energy, computing, advanced manufacturing, and health sectors. Emphasizes public policy and the federal government's role in that system. Focuses on the US but uses international examples. Reviews foundations of economic growth theory, innovation systems theory, and the basic approaches to science and technology policy. Explores the organization and role of energy and medical science R&D agencies, as well as gaps in those innovation systems. Also addresses the science and technology talent base as a factor in growth, and educational approaches to better support it. Class meets for nine weeks; in the remaining weeks, students work on a final paper due at the end of the term. Limited to 25.

Staff

STS.082[] Science, Technology, and Public Policy

Same subject as 17.309[], IDS.055[]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

4-0-8 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Credit cannot also be received for 17.310[], IDS.412[], STS.482[]

See description under subject 17.309[].

N. Selin

STS.083 Computers and Social Change

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Provides instruction on how people have historically connected computers to ideas on social, economic, and political change and how these ideas have changed over time. Based on a series of case studies from different parts of the world. Explores topics such as how computers have intertwined with ideas on work, freedom, governance, and access to knowledge. Limited to 25.

*E. Medina***STS.084[J] Social Problems of Nuclear Energy**

Same subject as 22.04[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 22.04[J]. Limited to 18.

*R. S. Kemp***STS.085[J] Foundations of Information Policy**

Same subject as 6.4590J

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Credit cannot also be received for STS.487

See description under subject 6.4590J. Enrollment limited.

*H. Abelson, M. Fischer, D. Weitzner***STS.086[J] Cultures of Computing**

Same subject as 21A.504[J], WGS.276[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 21A.504[J].

*H. Beltrán***STS.087 Biography in Science**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

An examination of biography as a literary genre to be employed in the history of science. The use of biography in different historical periods to illuminate aspects of the development of science. A critical analysis of autobiography, archival sources, and the oral tradition as materials in the construction of biographies of scientists. Published biographies of scientists constitute the major reading, but attention is given to unpublished biographical sources as well. Comparison is drawn between biography as a literary form in the history of science and in other disciplines.

*K. Manning***STS.088 Introduction to Science, Technology, and Innovation in Africa**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Immerses students in the historical, cultural, ethical, and contemporary dimensions of science, technology, and innovation in Africa and its global diaspora. Taught in five modules, starting with MIT-Africa engagement since 1861. Surveys African scientific and technological innovations and exports. Turns to African trade and commerce from trans-Saharan, river-based, and oceanic routes, vessels, and exchange systems. Ends with African materials science and engineering from deep history to the present moment, contrasting five centuries of Western resource extraction with modern African utilization of critical raw materials. Enrollment limited.

C. Mavhunga

STS.089 Spirit, Power, Intelligence: The Epic History of Electricity and Electronics

Prereq: None
Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
Acad Year 2026-2027: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Historical overview and synthesis of over 400 years of the core underlying technology of the modern world. Topics range from amber and magnetism in the ancient world to AI and electric power today. Touches on scientists and engineers like Franklin, Faraday, Maxwell, Edison, Hertz, and Tesla, as well as lesser-known contributors. Discusses the development, implementation, and impact of inventions including the light bulb, electric chair, telephone, electric guitar, transistor, integrated circuits, and digital networking. Includes histories of MIT Course 6 and Silicon Valley, as well as the evolution of the geopolitics of semiconductor manufacturing. Serves as a broad introduction to an electrical engineering undergraduate curriculum. Limited to 20.

D. Mindell

Special Subjects

STS.S20 Special Subject: Science, Technology and Society

Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Addresses subject matter in Science, Technology and Society that is not offered in the regular curriculum.

Staff

STS.S21 Special Subject: Science, Technology and Society

Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Addresses subject matter in Science, Technology and Society that is not offered in the regular curriculum.

Staff

STS.S22 Special Subject: Science, Technology and Society

Prereq: None
Acad Year 2025-2026: U (IAP)
Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Addresses subject matter in Science, Technology and Society that is not offered in the regular curriculum.

Staff

STS.S23 Special Subject: Science, Technology and Society

Prereq: None
U (IAP)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Addresses subject matter in Science, Technology and Society that is not offered in the regular curriculum.

Staff

STS.S24 Special Subject: Science, Technology and Society (New)

Prereq: None
U (IAP)
Not offered regularly; consult department
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Addresses subject matter in science, technology, and society that is not offered in the regular curriculum.

Staff

Research

STS.095, STS.096 Independent Study in Science, Technology, and Society

Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

For students who wish to pursue special studies or projects with a member of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. STS.095 is letter-graded; STS.096 is P/D/F.

Staff

STS.UR Undergraduate Research

Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Undergraduate research opportunities in the STS Program.

Staff

STS.URG Undergraduate Research

Prereq: None
 U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
 Units arranged
 Can be repeated for credit.

Undergraduate research opportunities in the STS Program.
Staff

STS.THT Undergraduate Thesis Tutorial

Prereq: None
 U (Fall, Spring)
 Units arranged
 Can be repeated for credit.

Definition and early-stage work on thesis project leading to STS.THU. Taken during first term of student's two-term commitment to thesis project. Student works closely with STS faculty tutor. Required of all candidates for an STS degree.
Staff

STS.THU Undergraduate Thesis

Prereq: STS.THT
 U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
 Units arranged
 Can be repeated for credit.

Completion of work of the senior major thesis under the supervision of a faculty tutor. Includes gathering materials, preparing draft chapters, giving an oral presentation of thesis progress to faculty evaluators early in the term, and writing and revising the final text. Students meet at the end of the term with faculty evaluators to discuss the successes and limitations of the project. Required of all candidates for an STS degree.
Staff

Graduate Subjects**Required Introductory Subjects****STS.250[J] Social Theory and Analysis**

Same subject as 21A.859[J]
 Prereq: None
 G (Spring)
 3-0-9 units

See description under subject 21A.859[J].
S. Helmreich

STS.260 Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society

Prereq: None
 G (Fall)
 3-0-9 units

Intensive reading and analysis of major works in historical and social studies of science and technology. Introduction to current methodological approaches, centered around two primary questions: how have science and technology evolved as human activities, and what roles do they play in society? Preparation for graduate work in the field of science and technology studies and introduction to research resources and professional standards.
Staff

Advanced Seminars**STS.310 History of Science**

Prereq: Permission of instructor
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)
 3-0-9 units

Intensive reading and analysis of key works in the history and historiography of science. Introduces students to basic interpretive issues, bibliographic sources, and professional standards. Topics change from year to year.
Staff

STS.320[J] Environmental Conflict

Same subject as 21A.429[J]
 Prereq: Permission of instructor
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)
 3-0-9 units

Explores the complex interrelationships among humans and natural environments, focusing on non-western parts of the world in addition to Europe and the United States. Use of environmental conflict to draw attention to competing understandings and uses of "nature" as well as the local, national and transnational power relationships in which environmental interactions are embedded. In addition to utilizing a range of theoretical perspectives, subject draws upon a series of ethnographic case studies of environmental conflicts in various parts of the world.
C. Walley

STS.330[J] History and Anthropology of Medicine and Biology

Same subject as 21A.319[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units

See description under subject 21A.319[J].
S. Helmreich

STS.340 Introduction to the History of Technology

Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

Introduction to the consideration of technology as the outcome of particular technical, historical, cultural, and political efforts, especially in the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics include industrialization of production and consumption, development of engineering professions, the emergence of management and its role in shaping technological forms, the technological construction of gender roles, and the relationship between humans and machines.
Staff

STS.360[J] Ethnographic Writing (New)

Same subject as 21A.829[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)
Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
3-0-9 units

See description under subject 21A.829[J]. Preference to HASTS students; open to others with permission of instructor.
A. Moran-Thomas

STS.412 Quantification

Prereq: None
Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

Surveys research on quantification, the practice of using numerical data and calculation to analyze, order, and control. Begins by examining historical accounts of the rise of quantitative methods and values since c. 1600. Goes on to explore the dynamics and consequences of quantification across a range of modern domains, including science, politics, governance, health, education, crime, law, economic development, finance, and environmental regulation. Readings drawn from STS, history, anthropology, sociology, and philosophy.
W. Deringer

STS.414[J] Risk, Fortune, and Futurity

Same subject as 21H.984[J]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

See description under subject 21H.984[J]. Open to undergraduates with permission of instructor; consult department for details.
W. Deringer, C. Horan

STS.417 STS Seminar on the Global South

Prereq: None
Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)
Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
3-0-9 units

Covers Africa and its diaspora, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Asia, and Oceania. Seeks to explore meanings of science and technology from traditions, experiences, and literatures of these regions; to understand encounters and outcomes of endogenous and inbound ideas, artifacts, and practice; and to engage European and North American science, technology, and society (STS) in dialogue with these literatures. Provides a global view of STS in an increasingly interconnected world. Focuses on peoples of the Global South as innovative intellectual agents, not just victims of technology or its appropriators.
D. Banerjee

STS.421 Graduate Super-Seminar on Global South Cosmologies and Epistemologies

Prereq: None
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

Team-taught subject that centers Global South cosmologies and epistemologies marginalized by colonization, slavery, and racism across the world. Explores how different societies make sense of and develop knowledges of the physical and animate world, and what it means to be human(e) within it. Opens up trans-hemispheric conversations between constituencies that seldom talk to each other, each bringing its ways of seeing, thinking, knowing, and doing to the matrix to mutually inform one another. Goal is to build qualitative — not just quantitative — diversity (i.e., diversity as method of learning and thinking).
C. C. Mavhunga

STS.424[] Race, History, and the Built Environment

Same subject as 11.244[]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

See description under subject 11.244[]. Limited to 14 students.

Erica James

STS.430 Multi-Species Histories of Plant People, Wild and Cultivated

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines how centering plants changes our understanding of what it means to be human. Considers how, in response to the naming of the Anthropocene and anxieties over ecological crises, researchers in various fields have turned to plants as central players. Using this as a starting point, explores how researchers have described and re-calibrated relations among plants, humans, and environment, between life and non-life, action and being, subjectivity and autonomy in ways that radically altered ruling epistemologies in a range of disciplines. Looks at how philosophers, farmers, foresters, eco-critics, geographers, botanists, and popular science writers adapted research questions and narratives to incorporate not only plant uses, but plant intelligence and sentience.

K. Brown

STS.432[] Narrating the Anthropocene: Understanding a Multi-Species Universe

Same subject as 21H.990[]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines human concern about the planet and how that fixation shapes concepts of time & space, knowledge-production, understandings of what it means to be human and non-human, as well as trends in scholarship, art, culture & politics. Indexes the way numerous actors and institutions came to understand, debate & narrate the Anthropocene, a geological epoch defined by human-induced climate change. Explores how it as a concept has opened up new ways of understanding relations within the planet, including care, accountability & multi-species mutualism. Considers narrative registers as well, how scholars, writers, artists & working people narrate the Anthropocene. Students undertake an original project in research &/or experimental narrative forms inspired by the reading. Limited to 12.

K. Brown, M. Black

STS.433 To Boldly Go: The History of Frontier Sciences

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Traces the construction of frontiers in the history of colonial and postcolonial sciences. Explores the concept of the frontier as an environmental site for knowledge production at imperial borders and a conceptual framework that links progress, expansion, and transgression. Reviews historical production of continental frontiers during the age of empire, discourses in the philosophy of science concerning frontier technology, and how the frontier has pivoted to spaces like the deep ocean and the internet in the postcolonial era. Analyzes the politics of knowledge production in alternative understandings of in-between spaces, including horizons and borderlands.

E. Nelson

STS.434 Postapocalyptic Science and Technology Studies

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines how science fiction is deployed as a political tool for enacting change in the present and how it has emerged as a privileged symbolic field for the expression of hopes and anxieties that drive both culture and tech industries. Explores how societies around the globe — both mainstream and in the periphery — are confronting a triple crisis that threatens not only civil order but also the very existence of certain forms of life: financial collapse which increased the awareness of mass inequality; climate change and loss of biodiversity; and the rise of ethno-nationalisms, which threaten representative democracies.

E. Nelson

STS.436 Cold War Science

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines the history and legacy of the Cold War on science and the environment in the US and the world. Explores scientists' new political roles after World War II, ranging from elite policy makers in the nuclear age to victims of domestic anti-Communism. Also examines the changing institutions in which various scientific fields were conducted during the postwar decades, investigating possible epistemic effects on forms of knowledge. Subject closes by considering the places of science in the US during the post-Cold War era.

K. Brown, D. I. Kaiser

STS.441 Technology and Self: Technology and Conversation

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

2-0-10 units

Explores the relationship between technology and conversation, with an emphasis on conversation in our digital age when so many say they would rather text than talk. Topics center on the psychology of online life, such as the way in which we both share and withhold information about the self. Discussion about the ways new kinds of online conversation are playing out in education, the workplace, and in families and what the changes in conversation mean for collaboration, innovation, and leadership. Readings include works in history, literature, anthropology, psychology, and linguistics. Open to undergraduates by permission of instructor. Limited to 15; no listeners.

*S. Turkle***STS.443 Technology and Self: Science, Technology, and Memoir**

Subject meets with STS.043

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

2-0-7 units

Focuses on the memoir as a window onto the relationship of creative people (scientists, engineers, designers, and others) to their work. Examines how class, race, ethnicity, family history, and trauma shape the person who shapes artifacts, experiments, and ideas. Readings explore the connection between material culture, identity, and personal development. Offers the opportunity, if desired, to examine personal experiences and write memoir fragments. Students taking graduate version write a longer final paper. Limited to 15; no listeners.

*S. Turkle***STS.444 Technology and Self: Things and Thinking**

Subject meets with STS.044

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

2-0-7 units

Explores emotional and intellectual impact of objects. The growing literature on cognition and “things” cuts across anthropology, history, social theory, literature, sociology, and psychology and is of great relevance to science students. Examines the range of theories, from Mary Douglas in anthropology to D.W. Winnicott in psychoanalytic thinking, that underlies “thing” or “object” analysis. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 15; no listeners.

*S. Turkle***STS.454 Museums, Science, and Technology**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Examines science, technology, and museums. Includes regular readings and discussions about the evolution of museums of science and technology from (roughly) 1800 to the present. Students undertake special projects linked to the MIT Museum's re-location to a new building under construction in Kendall Square. Students act as informal consultants to the MIT Museum, offering proposals for innovative elements that will be seriously considered for inclusion in the new Museum.

*Staff***STS.456 Waste, Discard, Remainder, Trace**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Engages with the emerging interdisciplinary field of waste and discard studies that center “discards” and their cognates to provide novel approaches to the study of social life and material and technological cultures. Examines the dynamics of wasting, discarding, remaindering, and tracing as fundamental logics of contemporary life and knowledge production. Explores these dynamics to reformulate the study of labor value and property, built environments and urban ecologies, reckoning and futurity, statecraft and warcraft, design repair and maintenance, sensory experience and knowledge making, political and creative action, identity and exclusion, and colonial and postcolonial power.

*I. Saraf***STS.457 Legacies of Scientific Racism: Race, Science, and Technology Today**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines how race is made, upheld, or challenged through contemporary technoscientific practices. Draws on readings from the social, humanistic, and biological sciences to understand how modern scientific racism works today and debate the potential for an anti-racist science of the future. Topics include biomedical experimentation; DNA forensics and law; genetic ancestry testing and identity; neuroscience and mental health; and algorithms, AI, and robots.

O. Rollins

STS.458 Science, Technology, and Human Rights

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Explores the relationship of science and technology to ideas about human rights over time, including how science and technology have been mobilized historically in the defense of human rights and to assist in the pursuit of truth and justice after atrocity. Discusses literature in history, anthropology, law, and related fields to address how science and technology have historically shaped understandings of human rights and the ways that human rights frameworks have shaped the creation and use of scientific and technological capabilities.

*E. Medina***STS.459 Biopolitics Today (New)**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units

Examines the concept of biopolitics and its contemporary impacts on the study of science and technology. Readings draw from, and place in conversation, an interdisciplinary set of literatures on the politics of qualification, quantification, observation, and standardization of human life. Studies the emergence of biopolitics as an object of theory, arguments around its analytic salience, and its possible potential as an application of critique for STS today. Topics survey nodes of biopolitics — such as bodies, difference, citizenship, security, and territory — and evaluate these areas in relation to contemporary modes of governance, correction, inscription, and exclusion.

*O. Rollins***STS.461 History and Social Study of Computing**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines the history and social study of computers. Introduces students to the core and canonical literature in this area while also providing the opportunity to read and discuss more recent works from multiple disciplines.

*E. Medina***STS.464 Computing from the Global South**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units

Examines the rise and development of computing technologies in the global south. Surveys the effects of decolonization in the mid-twentieth century on the imagination of computational technologies in places such as South America, Africa, and Asia. Covers the failures and defeats of postcolonial projects when faced with the challenge of asymmetric access to global markets and capital. Identifies contemporary forms of resistance and imaginations of innovation that still endure and flourish in the global south, challenging perspectives from the global north.

*D. Banerjee***STS.465[J] Research Seminar on Technology and the Work of the Future**

Same subject as 11.652[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines the past, present and future of work from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing from the humanities, social sciences, and cognitive science and engineering. Integrates perspectives from history, philosophy, sociology, economics, management, political science, brain and cognitive science and other relevant literatures, creating a solid foundation from which to interpret current public discourse on the subject. Discussion focuses primarily on the US; comparative perspectives from other countries incorporated into discussions and analysis. Limited to 15.

*D. Mindell, E. B. Reynolds***STS.468[J] Entrepreneurship in Aerospace and Mobility Systems**

Same subject as 16.445[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

3-0-9 units

See description under subject 16.445[J].

D. A. Mindell

STS.471[J] Engineering Apollo: The Moon Project as a Complex System

Same subject as 16.895[J]
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)
 4-0-8 units

Detailed technical and historical exploration of the Apollo project to fly humans to the moon and return them safely to Earth as an example of a complex engineering system. Emphasizes how the systems worked, the technical and social processes that produced them, mission operations, and historical significance. Guest lectures by MIT-affiliated engineers who contributed to and participated in the Apollo missions. Students work in teams on a final project analyzing an aspect of the historical project to articulate and synthesize ideas in engineering systems.

D. Mindell

STS.474[J] Art, Craft, Science

Same subject as 21A.509[J]
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)
 3-0-9 units
 Credit cannot also be received for 21A.501[J], STS.074[J]

See description under subject 21A.509[J].

H. Paxson

STS.477[J] Writing: Science, Technology, and Society

Same subject as 21W.820[J]
 Prereq: 21H.991
 Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)
 Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
 3-0-9 units

Examination of different "voices" used to consider issues of scientific, technological, and social concern. Students write frequently and choose among a variety of non-fiction forms: historical writing, social analysis, political criticism, and policy reports. Instruction in expressing ideas clearly and in organizing a thesis-length work. Reading and writing on three case studies drawn from the history of science; the cultural study of technology and science; and policy issues.

K. Manning

STS.482[J] Science, Technology, and Public Policy

Same subject as 17.310[J], IDS.412[J]
 Prereq: Permission of instructor
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)
 4-0-8 units
 Credit cannot also be received for 17.309[J], IDS.055[J], STS.082[J]

See description under subject 17.310[J].

N. Selin

STS.487 Foundations of Information Policy

Prereq: Permission of instructor
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 Acad Year 2026-2027: G (Fall)
 3-0-9 units
 Credit cannot also be received for 6.4590[J], STS.085[J]

Studies the interaction of law, public policy, and technology in today's controversies over control of the Internet. Students use technical, legal, and rhetorical skills to analyze and participate in the evolution of global public policy frameworks. Explores lessons for the future of increasingly large-scale data analytics systems including AI-based technologies. Instruction on how to write persuasive technology policy pieces, refine oral policy presentation skills through role-playing simulations, and develop original responses to contemporary digital policy challenges provided. Topics include: history of Internet policy, the relationship between technical architecture and law, privacy, freedom of expression, platform regulation, privacy, intellectual property, digital surveillance, and international affairs. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Enrollment limited.

H. Abelson, M. Fischer, D. Weitzner

Special Subjects**STS.S91 Special Subject: Science, Technology and Society**

Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2025-2026: G (IAP)
 Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered
 Units arranged
 Can be repeated for credit.

Addresses a special topic in Science, Technology and Society which is not offered in the regular curriculum.

Staff

STS.592 Special Subject: Science, Technology and Society

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

Acad Year 2026-2027: Not offered

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Addresses subject matter in Science, Technology and Society that is not offered in the regular curriculum.

*Staff***Research and Teaching****STS.840 HASTS Professional Perspective**

Prereq: Permission of advisor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

0-1-0 units

Required for doctoral students in the doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society (HASTS) to explore and gain professional perspective through academic, non-profit, government, or industry experiences. Professional perspective options include, but are not limited to, internships, teacher training, professional development for entry into academia, or public academic engagement. For an internship experience, an offer from a company or organization is required prior to enrollment. A written narrative or report is required upon completion of the experience. Proposals subject to departmental approval in consultation with advisor.

*Staff***STS.850 Practical Experience in HASTS Fields**

Prereq: None

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

For HASTS students participating in curriculum-related off-campus professional internship experiences. Before registering for this subject, students must have an offer letter from a company or organization and must receive written prior approval from their advisor. Upon completion of the experience, students must submit a substantive final report, approved by their advisor. Subject to departmental approval. Consult departmental graduate office. Permission of advisor.

*Staff***STS.860[JJ] HASTS Dissertation Writing Workshop**

Same subject as 21A.989[JJ], 21H.960[JJ]

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

1-0-5 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Bi-weekly seminar for students in the doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology & Society (HASTS) who have completed research and are in the process of writing their dissertations. Each class focuses on a particular element of the writing: organizing chapters, engaging the secondary literature, the art of the vignette, etc. Depending on student needs, some classes may be tailored to anthropological writing or to historical writing. Students are given ample opportunity to workshop draft passages and chapters. For PhD students only. PhD students outside the HASTS program require permission of instructor.

*Staff***STS.880 Proposal Writing in HASTS**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, Spring)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

For students in the doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society (HASTS) who are working on their dissertation proposal and/or research grant proposal program requirement. Work is done in consultation with the student's advisor, in accordance with the guidelines in the HASTS Student Handbook. Restricted to HASTS PhD students.

*Staff***STS.901-STS.904 Independent Study in Science, Technology, and Society**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

For students who wish to pursue special studies or projects at an advanced level with a faculty member of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society.

Staff

STS.THG Graduate Thesis

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Program of graduate research leading to the writing of a PhD thesis, to be arranged by the student with an appropriate MIT faculty member, who is the thesis advisor.

Staff