Science and Technology Studies (STS)

Courses

STS C4AC Data and Justice 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025
This course engages students with fundamental questions of justice in relation to data and computing in American society. Data collection, visualization, and analysis have been entangled in the struggle for racial and social justice because they can make injustice visible, imaginable, and thus actionable. Data has also been used to oppress minoritized communities and institutionalize, rationalize, and naturalize systems of racial violence. The course examines key sites of justice involving data (such as citizenship, policing, prisons, environment, and health). Along with critical social science tools, students gain introductory experience and do collaborative and creative projects with data science using real-world data.
Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Science and Technology Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: Data Science, Undergraduate 4AC

Also listed as: DATA C4AC

STS C100 Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2016, Spring 2015
This course provides an overview of the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) as a way to study how our knowledge and technology shape and are shaped by social, political, historical, economic, and other factors. We will learn key concepts of the field (e.g., how technologies are understood and used differently in different communities) and apply them to a wide range of topics, including geography, history, environmental and information science, and others. Questions this course will address include: how are scientific facts constructed? How are values embedded in technical systems?
Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Summer:
6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 3.5 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 3 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Science and Technology Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructors: Mazzotti, Winickoff

Also listed as: HISTORY C182C/ISF C100G

STS C101 Science, Technology, and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session
Science and Technology Studies foreground that there is a history behind facts. Where do modern science, medicine, and technology come from? How did they become the most authoritative kind of knowledge? How do technology and culture interact, and what drives change? This course examines the development of science, medicine, and technology as defining dimensions of the modern world. The aim is for you to learn about how science shapes the way we live and, especially, how technological change is invariably shaped by historical and social circumstances. At the end of the course, you will be able to think historically about science, medicine, and technology; assignments call on those skills, and no knowledge of science is required.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for HISTORY C182A after completing ISF C100G, HISTORY 182AT, or HISTORY 182CT. A deficient grade in HISTORY C182A may be removed by taking HISTORY 182AT, HISTORY 182CT, ISF C100G, ISF C100G, HISTORY 182AT, or HISTORY 182CT.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:
6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 5.5-5.5 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Science and Technology Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: History 182A

Also listed as: HISTORY C182A

STS C103 Disease, Health and Medicine in American History 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered
The history of medicine shows how societies have faced health crises in the past and how they have changed their approach to illness and disease over time. This class is a survey of the history of medicine in the U.S., focusing on changing concepts of disease, medical practices, institutions, patient experiences, and public health measures. In particular, the course examines how shifting ideas about gender, class, and race shaped experiences of illness and suffering, as well as medical knowledge and education. While the course focuses on the history of American medicine, it acknowledges that changes in the practice, theory, and education of medicine often do not occur in isolation but are part of global developments.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:
6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 5.5-5.5 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Science and Technology Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: History 183A

Also listed as: HISTORY C183A

STS C104D Human Contexts and Ethics of Data - DATA/History/STS 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Spring 2025, Spring 2022, Fall 2020, Spring 2020

This course teaches you to use the tools of applied historical thinking and Science, Technology, and Society (STS) to recognize, analyze, and shape the human contexts and ethics of data. It addresses key topics such as doing ethical data science amid shifting definitions of human subjects, consent, and privacy; the changing relationship between data, democracy, and law; the role of data analytics in how corporations and governments provide public goods such as health and security to citizens; sensors, machine learning and artificial intelligence and changing landscapes of labor, industry, and city life. It prepares you to engage as a knowledgeable and responsible citizen and professional in the varied arenas of our datafied world.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for DATA C104\HISTORY C184D\STS C104D after completing DATA 104. A deficient grade in DATA C104\HISTORY C184D\STS C104D may be removed by taking DATA 104.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1.5 hours of discussion per week

Summer:
6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-3.5 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 0-3 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Science and Technology Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: History C184D/Science and Technology Studies C104D

Also listed as: DATA C104/HISTORY C184D

STS C200 Topics in Science and Technology Studies 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

This course provides a strong foundation for graduate work in STS, a multidisciplinary field with a signature capacity to rethink the relationship among science, technology, and political and social life. From climate change to population genomics, access to medicines and the impact of new media, the problems of our time are simultaneously scientific and social, technological and political, ethical and economic.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Science and Technology Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: ANTHRO C254/ESPM C252/HISTORY C250

STS C204 Human Contexts and Ethics of Data 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

This course teaches you to use approaches from the across the humanities and interpretive social sciences and tools of Science, Technology, and Society (STS) to recognize, analyze, and shape the human contexts, social implications, and ethics of data and data technologies, including data analytics, algorithmic decision systems, machine learning (ML), and artificial intelligence (AI).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor. Graduate students without previous (undergraduate or graduate-level) preparation in the interpretive social sciences or humanities are encouraged to confer with the instructor before enrolling

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Science and Technology Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Carson

Also listed as: DATA C204/HISTORY C254

STS C250 Science and Technology Studies Research Seminar 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015
This course will cover methods and approaches for students considering professionalizing in the field of STS, including a chance for students to workshop written work.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Science and Technology Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Also listed as: ANTHRO C273/ESPM C273/HISTORY C251