

Fall 2023

STS-201 (013): Understanding Technological Society

Derek Levine

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Introduction to Science Technology and Society-STS 201-013 (CRN# 95988)

Fall 2023 Semester

Class meetings: Mon./Weds.8:30AM-9:50AM (Kupfrian Hall 203)

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Location & Hours
Derek Levine, PhD	dlevine@njit.edu	Office hours: By appointment only

*I will respond to all emails/Inbox messages within 24 hours. Exams will be graded within one week's time.

General Information

Course Description

A problem-centered and task-oriented course that integrates social science theory and practice into the leading public issues of a technological society. Students learn critical thinking through hands-on assignments. The course emphasizes student understanding of social institutions that directly affect technological development and professional careers. This course can be used to satisfy either the three credit 200 GER in History and Humanities or the three credit GER in Social Sciences, but not both.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites

There are no prerequisites listed for this course.

Course Learning Outcomes and Goals

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain intellectual foundations of science, including the discovery of how innovative scientific research is different from textbook science.
2. Analyze ways in which societal practices and attitudes influence the development of science and technology.
3. Illustrate ways in which science and technology impact society.

Required Materials

1. Stephane Paguin, *Theories of International Political Economy: An Introduction*,” Oxford University Press, 2016; ISBN: 978-0-19-901896-3L
2. Laura D'Andrea Tyson, "*Who's Bashing Whom Trade Conflict in High Technology Industries*," Institute for International Economics, 1992; ISBN-13: 978-0881321067
3. Derek Levine "*The Dragon Takes Flight: China's Aviation Policy, Achievements and international Implications*,” Brill 2015; ISBN-13: 978-9004299481 available online for free at <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2388&context=etd>

Grading Policy

NJIT Grading Legend

Letter to Number Grade Conversions

A	90-100
B+	85-89
B	80-84
C+	75-79
C	70-74
D	65-69
F	0-64

Final Grade Calculation

Final grades for all assignments will be based on the following percentages:

Exams (Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade)	60%
Class Participation (Discussion Forums)	10%
Group Project	10%
Final Exam	20%

Course Work

Class participation: (10% of grade) You are expected to participate in class discussions. When all students participate in a discussion, it creates an active learning environment that will help you better understand the materials and be more successful in the class.

Group Project (10% of grade) During the 8th week of class, we will form teams of 4 people who will work together on a final “team project/presentation. Your group will choose from one of five different scenarios that will govern your teamwork. Specifically, your team may become a 1) product design firm, 2) environmental organization, 3) a science and technology policy think-tank, 4) a community advocacy group, or 5) a group of concerned journalists. Under each of these options, you will be asked to choose a team leader, take on different roles, and figure out how to produce a collaborative paper and a PowerPoint Presentation as well as other documents as required by your specific scenario. Your team grade will be modified based on your individual contributions.

Exams: (60% of grade) Each exam will be summative to that point in the semester. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions.

Final Exam (20% of grade). The exam will consist of short answer questions and essays.

Feedback

I will deliver feedback on each assignment and exam assigned for this course. Comments can be found on the inside of the exam booklet and on the Collaborative Group paper and on the group PowerPoints.

Exam Information and Policies

Exam 1: October 4th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Exam 2: November 8th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Group Project: November 15th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Exam: 3 December 13th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Final Exam: December 18th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Policy for Make-Up Exams: A student will be issued a make-up exam upon receiving documentation of the excused absence. Excused absences will be decided on a case-by-case basis (death in the family or feeling ill), which will require documentation explaining the reasons mentioned above for the absence.

Policy for Late Work

For every day an assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from the overall grade of the assignment.

Academic Integrity

“Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the [NJIT academic code of integrity policy](#).

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu”

Weekly Expectations

Students are to come to class prepared having read the assigned readings. You should be prepared to engage in class discussions and complete and in-class assignments, which will count toward your participation grade.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading/Assignment	Due Dates
1	<u>Introduction: What Is STS?</u>	Chapters 1 & 2 (Paguin)	September 6th
2	<u>The Realist Perspective & Theorizing International Political Economy</u>	Chapters 3 & 4 (Paguin)	September 11th
3	<u>The Liberal Perspective & Open Economy Politics</u>	Chapters 5 & 6 (Paguin)	September 18th

4	<u>From Marxism to Gramscian Approaches & The British School</u>	Chapters 7 (Paguin)	September 25th
5	<u>Green and Feminist IPE</u>	Chapters 8 (Paguin) Exam 1	October 2nd October 4th
6	<u>High-Technology Trade Challenge</u>	Chapter 1 (Tyson)	October 9th
7	<u>Trade and System Conflict</u>	Chapter 2 (Tyson)	October 16th
8	<u>From MOSS to Motorola</u>	Chapter 3 (Tyson)	October 23 rd
9	<u>Semiconductor Industry</u>	Chapter 4 (Tyson)	October 30th
10	<u>Commercial Aviation Industry</u>	Chapter 5 (Tyson) Exam 2	November 6 th November 8th
11	<u>Cautious Activism</u>	Chapter 6 (Tyson) Group Project	November 13th November 15 th
12	<u>China's Commercial Aviation Industry</u>	Chapter 1 (Tyson)	November 20th
13	<u>Development of the Y-10</u>	(Chapter 2 & 3 (Levine))	November 27 th
14	<u>Strategies for Competing with China's C-919</u>	Chapter 4 & 5 (Levine)	December 4th
15	<u>World Trade Organization</u>	Chapter 6 (Levine) Exam 3	December 11th December 13th
16	<u>Final Exam</u>	Final Exam	December 18th

Additional Information and Resources

[Canvas Accessibility Statement](#)

Requesting Accommodations:

If you need accommodations due to a disability please contact Scott Janz, Associate Director of the [Office of Accessibility Resources and Services](#), Kupfrian Hall 201 to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the office authorizing student accommodations is required.

[General Resources for NJIT Students \(including technical support\)](#)