

FALL 2009 SYLLABUS

STS 4000—INTERNATIONAL ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

STS 4000-01 M,W, F 9:00-9:50 Room: J-158

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Julie Newell

Office: J-305B

Phone/Voice mail: 678-915-7481 Fax: 678-915-4949

email: jnewell@spsu.edu

Office Hours: Monday through Friday open-door hours 10-3, drop-ins and appointments welcome

My Web Page: <http://www.spsu.edu/sis/newell>

GeorgiaVIEW Vista 8 Address: <http://spsu8.view.usg.edu>

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Please note—this course will be very nearly paperless. We will do things electronically as much as we possibly can. Please try not to print copies of the course materials unless you really need to.

Course readings will be available electronically.

Access to a web browser or time on campus to use the lab computers—participation through GeorgiaVIEW Vista 8 (V8) is required. All assignments will be turned in via V8. *Should the University be closed for any reason, class will continue entirely on GeorgiaVIEW Vista 8 until the University reopens.*

Access to a typewriter and word-processing software. Be sure that you proofread all of your work (don't rely on software) and check to see that your printer or typewriter is not in need of a new ribbon or cartridge. **All written work in this course will be turned in using V8. You must also have access to a copy of your work (electronic or hard-copy) in class on the day it is due.**

CLASSROOM PHILOSOPHY:

Come: be in class every day, on time, and prepared. Stay for the whole class.

Commit: expect to spend significant time and effort on course assignments—half measures won't do. And that includes in-class activities.

Communicate: ask questions; share ideas and suggestions; participate in discussions and group assignments. Use the Discussions tool in VISTA, too!

Collaborate: contribute to the creation of a learning community characterized by cooperation and mutual respect; learning isn't a competitive event—we all do better when we all do better.

SPECIFIC COURSE PHILOSOPHY:

STS 4000 is an interdisciplinary course, designed to introduce you to some of the interrelationships of science, technology and society in an international perspective. The depth of our dependence on complex technological systems, and the intensity of our emotional and financial investment in them, mean that such systems have wide social and cultural impacts and that such impacts vary among societies and cultures

To participate as a citizen in an increasingly scientific and technological world, you must be able to evaluate information, form your own understandings and opinions, express those opinions both orally and in writing, and defend them with appropriate evidence and example. In this course you will be encouraged to do all those things.

Writing will be used extensively in this course. Writing is a critical skill not only for expressing what you think and know, but also for developing your knowledge and understanding. Writing is a *process* and will be used in this course to help you figure out what you think, what you know, and what you *don't* know. Reading and writing are critical tools in this class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify technical, social, political, and moral issues raised by current advances in and uses of science and technology.
2. Evaluate scientific and technological issues from the perspective of peoples and nations outside the United States, giving particular attention to the social, political, and economic ramifications of various scientific and technological choices and developments.
3. Weigh evidence, construct arguments, evaluate arguments, and apply these skills to the debates concerning contemporary international issues in science and technology.

4. Formulate and clearly express, both orally and in writing, your own position on contemporary international issues in science and technology, supporting your position with evidence and example as well as logically consistent and fully developed argumentation.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the counselor working with disabilities at 678-915-7244 as soon as possible to better assure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. ([SPSU Disabilities information page](#).)

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Be sure you read the relevant section and know and understand the potential penalties in the University Academic Regulations in [the current undergraduate catalog](#). You would do well to read the document prepared by SPSU faculty members Bob Brown and Bob Harbort and supported by the School of Arts and Sciences. ([Click here to access this resource](#).)

The penalty in this course for a *first offense* of academic dishonesty is a score of zero on the assignment in question and a written warning. Repeat offenders will receive a *course* grade of F.

ATTENDANCE:

Participation in the give-and-take of class is an important part of this course. I expect you to be in class—on time—and stay until the end of the period. You will also be expected to have a copy of your assignment for the day with you.

I will take attendance. If you arrive after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to sign in. Coming late or leaving early will earn you a partial absence, and three partial absences will count as an absence.

Every student will have 3 excused absences available to them for whatever reason. Excused absences are intended to cover all those unavoidable little disasters and scheduling conflicts in life. All additional absences will be unexcused *except* documented cases in which you are officially representing the University. If you feel you have a truly exceptional documentable case for additional excused absences, please discuss it with me.

Every unexcused absence on a non-presentation day will "cost" you 2 points. Presentation-day absences will carry a higher penalty applied directly to the presentation component of your grade.

You will be responsible for all material covered in class (lecture, film, and activities) and all material covered in the assigned reading whether or not you are in class. Use V8 to see what you've missed and then feel free to come to me with questions or for additional information.

ON-TIME ASSIGNMENTS / PARTICIPATION:

All work assigned in this class during the term will be preparation for the class in which it is due. We will use the work you have done as the basic material for the class in which it is due. For this reason, late assignments will **NOT** be accepted for credit. Work turned in late may be evaluated to provide you with feedback, but will not be graded / given credit except in cases of documented emergency.

Assignments must be submitted electronically using either the assignment or discussion board in V8 as specified in the assignment directions. You may also email a copy to Dr. Newell if you experience a problem posting to V8. YOU are responsible for making sure attachments are really attached when you post or email!

You must also have a copy of your work available for use in class—failure to do so will negatively affect your attendance grade. (It's not enough to be in class, you must also be ready and willing to participate!)

Given the amount of advance notice you have for every assignment in this course, technology failure will almost never qualify as an "emergency." Leaving things to the last minute and having a technical failure is not an emergency, it is poor planning.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER:

Please see the hazardous weather page on Dr. Newell's website. (Hot-linked from [here](#) or Dr. Newell's homepage.) Assume that your assignments are due on the posted due dates even if bad weather closes the university! Be sure you have read and understand the course policy on hazardous weather.

GRADING

When grading your written work, I start from the assumption that basically competent work that meets the requirements of the assignment is "C" work. "D" work fails on one count or the other. "A" and "B" work rises above the minimal requirements and demonstrates mastery of both the material and the skills outlined above. My grading (all done with numbers, not letters) is based on these definitions.

Following directions is a basic life skill. You are responsible for abiding by all directions and deadlines appearing in the on-line syllabus or on the course V8 site.

There will be limited extra-credit work available. All extra credit assignments are chosen based on their relevance to the course and their availability (at least in theory) to all students in the course. They occur periodically throughout the course and will be posted on V8. As always, if you want the credit, follow the directions carefully and turn your work in on time. Total extra credit per individual is limited to 10% of the required assignment total, or 50 points this semester.

I make every effort to grade and return (re-post) assignments promptly. Once an assignment is returned, please bring any clerical errors to my attention immediately. (I make mistakes—I will promptly correct the ones I know about!) For questions of interpretation or other more complicated

issues, I ask that you take the time to think through the argument you want to make, and then please do discuss your concerns with me, electronically or in person.

The Grading Categories are as follows:

Attendance / Participation (see policy above)	70 points
Analytical Memos (14 @ 10 points each)	140 points
Research Reports (12 @ 10 points each)	120 points
News & Analysis (10 @ 10 points each)	100 points
In-Class Presentation	70 points
Extra credit	<u>???.points</u>
	500 total points

The Grading Scale is as follows:

89.5% and up = A (448+ points)

79.5-89.4% = B (398-447 points)

69.5-79.4% = C (348-397 points)

59.5-69.4% = D (298-347 points) *International Studies students must earn a grade of C or higher or retake the course.*

Please note that your final grade depends entirely on the total number of points you have earned during the semester. It doesn't matter what "category" points are earned in, only what your total is at the end of the term.

[Schedule for Fall 2009](#)