Science, Technology and Society

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Science, Technology and Society

Science, technology and society (STS) is an internationally recognized field of cross disciplinary study that integrates philosophical, social scientific and humanistic studies to better understand the natural and human-built world. The minor offers students the opportunity to critically examine science, technology and medicine as methods for reasoning about and acting upon the natural world as expressions of human cultures, past and present.

Students learn to scrutinize the ideas, reasoning, values, practices and artifacts embedded in the world they inhabit today. They explore how choices made within various historical, social, economic and political contexts sometimes influence the development of science, technology and medicine. They also see how the adoption and diffusion of ideas, artifacts and techniques can then influence individuals, society, politics and culture. Courses in this minor draw students together from diverse majors across the campus and encourage open inquiry into the role of science and technology in society.

The minor in STS is open to all undergraduate students at JMU. Courses taken to complete the STS minor can also be used to satisfy the student’s major and General Education requirements.

The STS minor requires 18 credit hours with at least one course each from the history, sociology and ISAT courses listed.

Required Courses

Choose one:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISAT 131</td>
<td>Technology, Science, and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 327</td>
<td>Technology in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 315</td>
<td>Science, Technology, and Society</td>
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Elective courses

Choose five from at least four different programs/majors:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 340</td>
<td>The Invention of Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 360</td>
<td>Medical Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 373</td>
<td>Anthropological Perspectives on Environment and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 303</td>
<td>History of Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 376</td>
<td>Modern Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 330</td>
<td>Societal and Ethical Issues in Computing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 322</td>
<td>Agricultural Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 325</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
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GEOG 344. Economic Geography and Development Issues
GEOG/ISAT 429. Sustainability: An Ecological Perspective
HIST 305. History of Science and Christianity
HIST 306. A History of the Body in the West
HIST 326. The Automobile in 20th Century America
HIST 327. Technology in America
HIST 404. Science and Society in Early Modern Europe
HIST 405. Travel and Exploration
HIST 427. U.S. Environmental History
HIST 443. Modern American Technology and Culture
ISAT 231. Political Economy of Technology and Science
ISAT 311. Role of Energy in Modern Society
ISAT 411. Energy Economics and Policy
ISAT 421. Environmental Policy and Regulation
ISAT 456. Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of Biotechnology
ISAT 464. Telecommunications in the Public Interest
ISAT 471. Transportation: Energy, Environment and Society
ISAT 477. Complex Systems and How They Fail
PHIL 396. Philosophy of Physics
PHIL 397. Philosophy of Space and Time
PHIL 398. Philosophy of Quantum Theory
PHIL 410. Philosophy of Science
SOCI 311. Sociology of the Environment
SOCI 316. Space, Time and the Human Social Environment
SOCI 366. Sociology of Knowledge
SOCI 375. Medical Sociology
WGS/ISAT 485. Gender Studies in Science
WRIT 358. Writing About Science and Technology
WRIT 416/SCOM 465. Rhetoric of Environmental Science and Technology
WRIT 458. Scientific and Medical Communication

Special topics courses not listed can be applied to the minor with prior approval of the program coordinator.