SCIENCE STUDIES
Organizers: Fa-ti Fan (History) and Gerald Kutcher (History)

Theme: Variously known as Science and Technology Studies (STS), Social Studies of Science (SSS), Social Studies of Knowledge (SSK), and Science, Technology and Medicine Studies (STM), Science Studies has been a growing field for the elucidation of the relations between science, society, politics, and culture. Science studies over the past three decades have produced a wealth of empirical and theoretical investigations where knowledge claims of scientists are a product (“all the way down”) of social interests, and that science and society are mutually constructed. These and related studies have drawn on and have influenced a broad range of academic disciplines including history, sociology, philosophy, anthropology, women’s studies, post-colonial studies, and law...

Organization: Although the specific content of individual meetings will depend upon the interests of the participants and the topics of the speakers, one of the purposes of the first meeting will be to outline the areas that the group might try to address. Examples include science and institutionalized knowledge production; experts and the public uptake of knowledge; medical constructs of the body and mind; science, the military, and the university; as well as such publicly debated topics as intelligent design and sociobiology.

Coordination: The basic structure of the science studies program will consist of some combination of a series of discussion sessions, individual lectures, possibly a one or one and a half--day workshop on a particular issue with outside and campus speakers. We would encourage participants to present their work at individual meetings. In addition to our broad goals, our first meeting will also decide on the time and days for our meetings. We hope to see you at the first meeting.