



**Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani**  
Hyderabad Campus

**INSTRUCTION DIVISION**  
**FIRST SEMESTER 2016-2017**  
Course Handout Part II

Date: 01-08-2016

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

**Course No:** BITS F399  
**Course Title:** Humanistic Theories of Science and Technology  
**Instructor:** Biswanath Dash  
**Room No.** B 207  
**Email:** [biswanath@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in](mailto:biswanath@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in)

### 1. Objective and scope of the course:

This course will introduce ways of considering the interrelationship among three of the major dimensions of our culture-- its science, its technology and its humanistic orientation. The main focus of the course will be to understand various theories that explain the relationship between science, technology and society. The students will learn alternate ways of thinking about science and technology, and will be encouraged to question the taken for granted scientific knowledge and technological artifacts.

### 2. Text Book:

Sismondo, Sergio. 2004. *An introduction to Science and Technology Studies*. UK: Blackwell Publishing.

### 3. Reference Material: Will be announced in the class.

### 4. Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning Objective	Topics to be covered	Text Book and Ref. material
1-2	Understanding the core concepts	Science; Technology; Humanities.	TB Chapter 1
3-10	Science, Technology, Society	Central issues in the philosophy of science	Reading materials, TB Chapter 2
11-18	Sociology of Science	Institutional view of science, Social construction framework, Laboratory	TB-Chapter 3-6



		studies	
19-29	Technology and Innovation	Understanding the mutual shaping of science, technology and society. Technological innovation	Reading materials, TB Chapter 9
30-40	Critical and Cultural Studies of science and technology	Gender, science and technology; Expertise; Public Understanding of Science	TB Chapter 7, 15 and 16, Reading materials

## 5. Evaluation Scheme:

EC No.	Evaluation Component (EC)	Duration	Weightage	Date, Time and Venue	Nature of Component
1.	Test-I	60 minutes	20%	9/9, 5.00 -- 6.00 PM	Closed
	Test-2	60 minutes	20%	24/10, 5.00 -- 6.00 PM	Open
2.	Assignment	Take home	15%		
3.	Class participation		05%		
4.	Comprehensive Examination	180 minutes	40%	10/12 FN	Closed

**6. Course Notices:** Notices, if any, concerning the courses will be displayed on Department Notice Board.

**7. Make-up:** For the components of the evaluation, makeup will be allowed on the basis of documented proof to support the case. If you have a personal or medical emergency, provide copies of the appropriate paperwork to your instructor as soon as you can. Missing a due date, forgetting an assignment, or simply getting behind is not a valid reason.

**8. Cheating and Plagiarism:** Please be aware that cutting and pasting from websites is considered plagiarism. Students are advised to document all sources. If you are not sure that you need to document a source, then please ask the instructor. Any hint of plagiarism in an assignment will fetch a zero

**9. Chamber consultation:** Will be announced in the class.

**Biswanath Dash**

**INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE**

