

# ISAT 131 - Technology, Science, and Society

## Spring 2011

### Course Coordinator: Dr. David McGraw

Online Lectures: Dr. David McGraw, Dr. Jeff Tang, and Dr. Michael Klein

Writing Instructor: Dr. Eric Pappas

Small Group Session Leaders:

Section 1: Dr. Morgan Benton

Section 2: Dr. David McGraw

Section 3: Dr. Jeff Tang

Section 4: Drs. Amanda Biesecker & Nicole Radziwill

Section 5: Dr. Eric Maslen

Section 6: Dr. Carole Nash

Section 7: Dr. Michael Klein

**Course Format:** This is a blended course. That means much of the instruction in the course will come online, but there are also portions of the course that will require your physical presence.

**Course Description:** This course introduces the social aspects of technology and science. It covers social science methods and related philosophical and ethical analyses. Students learn how the practice of science relates to the human-built world and why critical evaluations of science and technology policies are important.

**Course Objectives:** The course introduces students to major ideas and themes in the fields of science and technology studies (STS) and the ethics of science and technology. Students will be challenged to think critically about the methods, practice, and organization of science and technology and their role in society.

### Weekly Schedule:

#### Online:

Every Monday & Wednesday by 8:00 a.m. a new narrated PowerPoint lecture will appear on Blackboard, along with an associated reading assignment and an online Blackboard quiz. You will have 48 hours (until 8:00 a.m. Wednesday/Friday) to complete the quiz.

#### Large Classroom:

Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:45 in ISAT/CS 236 are **optional review sessions**. These sessions are not required, and no new material will be presented, but will always be available should you have questions. Usually Dr. McGraw will be present.

Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:45 in ISAT/CS 236 will be used for **required class** components. We will not meet every Thursday, but when we do, your attendance is required. These class components will include exams, writing instruction, and information literacy.

#### Small Group:

You are required to meet once a week for 50 minutes with your small discussion group section (times and instructors vary).

**Final Exam:** Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.



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## Grading

### Exams:

Unit 1 Exam:	15%
Unit 2 Exam:	15%
Unit 3 Exam (semi-comprehensive)	20%
Online Blackboard Quizzes:	15%
Writing Component:	15%*
Small Discussion Group Grade	15%**
Additional Assignments / Thursday Attendance	5%***

### Notes:

- \* The Writing Component grade will be assigned by Dr. Pappas. This is a required component. A grade of "F" in the Writing Component means you receive an "F" in the course.
- \*\* The Small Group grade will be assigned by your small group instructor. This is a required component. A grade of "F" in the Small Group means you receive an "F" in the course.
- \*\*\* Additional Assignments / Thursday Attendance grade will consist of the following:

### Information Literacy Assignment:

Will be described in class on Thursday, January 27 and due **electronically** by Thursday, February 3.

### Senior Project Analysis:

You will be required to attend at least one ISAT senior project presentation on Friday, April 15, and write analysis of it, due electronically by Tuesday, April 19. More details will be available on Blackboard the week of April 11.

### Thursday Attendance:

A portion of this grade will be based on your attendance at Thursday sessions.

## Class Policies & Rules

### 1. BlackBoard

We will use BlackBoard extensively during this course. It is your responsibility to check in with the BlackBoard site for this course frequently for announcements. It is also your responsibility to check your grades regularly to make sure all quiz scores appear correctly, and to notify Dr. McGraw of problems promptly.

### 2. Quizzes

All quizzes will be taken online on BlackBoard. You will generally have a 48-hour window in which you can take each quiz. You can take each quiz up to 5 times, and your highest score will be the one that counts as your grade. All quizzes are open book, open notes, and open Internet. Because of these generous policies, there are no make-up quizzes except in extremely unusual circumstances.

### 3. Tests

You are required to take all tests. All tests will count towards your final grade. If you miss a test due to an excused absence (illness, etc.) you **must contact Dr. McGraw within 24 hours** to make arrangements **AND provide evidence to substantiate your excuse** (such as a written note from a doctor, etc.)

### 4. Writing Component

Additional requirements, policies, and rules will be provided by the writing instructor, which will become a binding part of this syllabus.

### 5. Small Groups

Additional requirements, policies, and rules will be provided by your small group instructor, including, but not limited to, policies on attendance, participation, and classroom behavior which will become a binding part of this syllabus.

### 6. Honor Code

A Exams. According to the JMU Honor Code, cheating on a test includes (but is not limited to) using unauthorized materials or receiving unauthorized assistance, copying information from another student, rendering unauthorized assistance to another student, or obtaining prior knowledge of examination materials (including by using copies of previously given examinations obtained from files maintained by various groups and organizations) in an unauthorized manner.

B Assignments. Unless you are explicitly permitted to work on a project in connection with a group, written work is to reflect your own ideas and your own words, or be specifically attributed to another source. It is a violation of the JMU Honor Code to use a commercially prepared paper or research project, submit for academic credit any work completed by someone else, or plagiarize (defined as “the deliberate copying, writing or presenting as one's own the information, ideas or phrasing of another person without proper acknowledgment of the true source.”)

C Penalties available under the JMU Honor Code include assigning a reduced or failing grade on the examination, assigning a reduced or failing grade in the course, or assigning "F" in the course and expulsion from the University.

### 7. Responsibility for Understanding the Syllabus

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures laid out in this syllabus.