CULS5207 Interdisciplinary Study of Technoscience Culture
1st Semester, 2018-2019

Time: Saturday 14:30 - 17:15
Venue: ELB 303
Instructor: PANG Ka Wei, Janet
Tutor: tbc

Course Description
Technoscience is often associated with objectivity, universality and rationality, and it is a body of knowledge, a process and practices subject to critical scrutiny. Technoscience is not limited to a small group of professional scientists but penetrates the everyday life of everyone in the contemporary world. It mediates our identity, subjectivity and experience by means of biomedicine, visual technology, information technology, to name but a few. Encountering this ever-advancing science and technology, we should engage critically with their institutions, practices and discourses. In this course, we will approach science and technology as social and cultural institutions that shape our everyday experience at different stages of life, and contextually examine their dominant discourses and practices. Informed by critical theories in STS and feminist science studies, we see doing cultural studies of technoscience as a cultural and political intervention. Instead of simply using technoscience, students are encouraged to actively and critically engage in it by integrating interdisciplinary knowledge and envisage this critical intervention as a means to promote values, such as understanding, community, equality and social justice, that we treasure in humanities.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to
1. demonstrate an understanding of how the dominant discourses of technology and science are culturally situated,
2. interrogate the mediation in producing and reproducing science knowledge,
3. develop an awareness of the impact technoscience culture has brought to people of different gender, class, race, and age, and
4. analyze specific technoscience discourses, practices or issues with critical concepts of Cultural Studies.

Assessment
- Field Visit Reflective Essay (800-1000 words) 25%
- Oral Presentation & Participation 25%
- Final Paper (Chinese: 4000 words/ English: 3000 words) 50%
Course Schedule

Week 1  Why Interdisciplinary Study of Science and Technology?  8 Sept

Week 2  Who We Are  15 Sept

Week 3  What We See & Listen  22 Sept

Week 4  What We Eat  29 Sept

Week 5  Field Visit:  6 Oct (tbc)
Hong Kong Science Museum & Hong Kong History Museum
Week 6  How We Love  13 Oct

Week 7  How We Work  20 Oct

Week 8  How We Consume  27 Oct

Week 9  How We Connect  3 Nov

Week 10  When We Are Born & Grow Old  10 Nov
Beimborn, Maria, Selma Kadi, Nina Köberer, Mara Mühleck, and Mone Spindler. “Focusing on the Human: Interdisciplinary Reflections on Ageing and Technology.” In Ageing and Technology:
Week 11 When We Are Well 17 Nov


Week 12 When We Are Unwell 24 Nov


Week 13 Where Are We Going? 1 Dec


Assessment

1. Field Visit Reflective Essay *
   ✷ You are expected to demonstrate your criticality and reflectivity in this assignment.
   ✷ You may write a critical review on your field visit experience, a particular technoscience issue, a particular exhibit, or a comparison and contrast of the two museums or guided tour regarding the representation of science and technology.
   ✷ Citations and bibliography are not necessary
   ✷ Due Date: 13 October, 2018 (Saturday) [VeriGuide: 2am; Hardcopy: 2:30pm]
2. Oral Presentation
   ❖ You have to deliver an oral presentation on your reflective essay in one of the following days: 13 Oct, 20 Oct, 27 Oct or 3 Nov.
   ❖ The presentation will be delivered in the modified PechaKucha style, i.e. 15 sec x 15 slides.
   ❖ Scores will be deducted if the presentation exceeds 5 minutes.
   ❖ The oral presentation will be assessed by the instructor and/or the tutor and your fellow classmates.
   ❖ Please contact the course tutor or instructor one week in advance if you would like to deliver your presentation in pair. In this case, the presentation time would be 8-10 minutes in total.

3. Final Paper *
   ❖ You are expected to write a 3,000-word English paper or a 4,000-word Chinese paper.
   ❖ Due date: VeriGuide – 1 December, 2018 (Saturday) 2am
     Hardcopy – 1 December, 2018 (Saturday) 2:30pm

* The assignments could be written in either Chinese or English.
   Please observe the below formatting guidelines before submission.
   ❖ File format: Word file (.doc)
   ❖ Font: Chinese font 新細明體, 標楷體 or 微軟正黑體
     English font: Arial, Garamond or Times New Roman;
     Font size: 12; Font colour: Black
   ❖ Line Spacing: 1.15
   ❖ Please print on BOTH sides.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students’ uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

Contact
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Tutor [tbc]