Historically and currently, women have been and are active participants in science and technology (S & T) but only after overcoming numerous barriers. In the first stages of a feminist analysis of S & T, we discovered our foremother practitioners. In the second stage, we looked for space for women in the existing structures. Now we question the nature of S & T, and how it fits within a more holistic and equitable world view.

In the 1990s, S & T are equated with prosperity, progress, power and security, where a relatively small elite make decisions that affect all aspects of our lives. By understanding the relation of gender to S & T, we can move toward their transformation and reclamation.

This course examines some of the social, political and economic consequences for women of the development of a global system of science and technology. A survey of feminist critiques of this system will focus on such topics as the place of science in education, the evaluation of the appropriateness of technologies, the nature of evidence, and strategies for empowerment in relation to research and development.

Required reading


Evaluation

Journal (tbd) 15%
Research Paper (8-10 pages) 25%
Presentation 5%
Midterm test 25%
Interview 10%
Final examination (scheduled) 20%

Designated credit: This course may be designated 3 (elective) lower division credits in Engineering Science.

Students may apply to the Communication Department to have this course designated as 3 lower division credits toward their lower division major requirements.