HASTS Common Exam List

Version of Fall 2015 (9/16/15)

The Common Exam List serves as a reading list for Field 3 of the General Examinations required of students in MIT's Doctoral Program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS). The List represents the interdisciplinary conversation that is HASTS and encompasses social, historical, and cultural perspectives on science and technology. Any faculty member within the HASTS Program may supervise this list.

Sources are listed within sections in chronological order of publication. In approaching edited volumes, read the Introduction and a couple of representative chapters in consultation with the faculty member with whom you are reading the list.

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) collects feedback and suggestions for additions and deletions on an ongoing basis. Changes are made to the published list every few years. The DGS works with a committee of students to revise the list, and HASTS faculty then certify it.

All students read modules 1-5, and then select at least 5 additional modules from among sections 6-14 or modify or add in comparable modules in consultation with faculty.

1. Philosophies of Science from Positivism to Antipositivism
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   
   

   **suggested contextual essay**
   
2. Sociologies of Scientific Institutions and Knowledge


suggested review essay


3. Actor-Network Theory, Cyborgs, and Nonhuman Agency


**suggested review books**  

**4. Science as Practice and Material Culture**  

**suggested review essay**  
5. Technological Determinism vs. Social Constructions of Technology


**suggested review sources**


6. Gender, Science, and Feminist STS


7. Scientific Selves; Technology and Identity


**suggested review essay**

8. Environment, Animals, Agriculture, and “The Natural”


**suggested review essays**


9. Law, Authority, and Property in Science and Technology


**suggested review essay**


**10. Politics, Expertise, Planning, Security**


Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway, *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming*. 
11. Media and Mediation: Representation, Visualization, Sensing


**suggested review essay**


12. Calculation, Networks, Feedback, Management


suggested review essay

13. Biology, Biomedicine, and Biopolitics
Margaret Lock, Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).
suggested review essays


14. Postcolonialism, Power and Global Technoscience


suggested review essay

FURTHER RESOURCES

Readers and General Introductions
Sheila Jasanoff, Gerald E. Markle, James C. Petersen, and Trevor Pinch, eds., The Handbook of Science and Technology Studies, revised edition (Sage, 1995)
Michael M. J. Fischer, Anthropological Futures (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009), esp. “Four Cultural Genealogies (or Haplotype Genealogical Tests) for a Recombinant Anthropology of Science and Technology.”

Some Major Journals in the Field

Social Studies of Science: http://sss.sagepub.com/

Isis: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/journals/journal/isis.html

Science, Technology, and Human Values: http://sth.sagepub.com/

Technology and Culture: http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/technology_and_culture/

Science as Culture: www.tandfonline.com/toc/csac20/current

A more extensive list is here: http://www.4sonline.org/resources/journals