Universidad Zaragoza

Academic Year/course: 2024/25

25543 - Science, Technology and Society

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25
Subject: 25543 - Science, Technology and Society
Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
Degree: 269 - Degree in Philosophy
587 - Degree in Philosophy
ECTS: 6.0
Year:
Semester: First semester
Subject type: Optional
Module:

1. General information

Science, Technology and Society is an elective in the area of Logic and Philosophy of Science. The subject focuses mainly on the study of the social implications of the scientific-technological phenomenon, and the interrelation between Science, Technology and Society. It addresses the different theoretical perspectives and methodological orientations related to these aspects. It seeks to show that science is a human activity. At the same time, it seeks to contribute to bridge the growing gap between the humanistic culture and the scientific-technological culture observed in our societies.

The general approach, therefore, is intended to respect the clearly interdisciplinary nature of Science, Technology and Society studies.

These approaches and objectives are aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 (https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/),in such a way that the acquisition of the learning results of the subject provides training and competence to contribute to some extent to their achievement: Goal 4:Quality education; Goal 5: Gender equality; Goal 10: Reduction of inequalities; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; Goal 12: Responsible Production and Consumption; Goal 13: Climate action; Goal 16: Peace, justice and solid institutions.

2. Learning results

1) To understand the most important concepts and theories about the scientific-technological phenomenon.

2) To express reasoned meanings and conclusions from the analysis of a given situation.

3) To formally and informally relate scientific-technical aspects with the legal and political framework.

4) To formally and informally relate scientific-technical aspects with environmental and ethical aspects.

5) To formally and informally relate scientific-technical aspects with the socioeconomic environment.

3. Syllabus

PART ONE: Introduction to STS.

1. Robert K. Merton and Alexandre Koyré.

2. T. S. Kuhn

3. Ludwik Fleck,

4. The Strong Programme.

5. Harry Collins

6. Bruno Latour.

PART TWO: Social studies of science: cases

4. Academic activities

The nature of the subject is eminently theoretical, but it is not exempt from a practical component, so the activities will try to take into account this duality, alternating between lectures and seminars.

5. Assessment system

First call:

Global assessment (100 %) :

- Final grades must not exceed 10,000 words.
- The essay must include an introduction, the body of the essay, conclusions, and references or bibliography. Citations and notes must be an essential part of the paper. Finally, its absence as well as the presence of spelling mistakes shall diminish the final grade.
- Whether the student attends the classes or not, the subject of the essay and its progress must be discussed with the professor before submitting it. This is a necessary condition for passing the course.
- The essay shall deal with any of the authors or cases explained during the course. A case or author that has not been dealt with during the course can be accepted in some cases, but the student must justify its relevance previously. In any case, the course material must be employed in its preparation.
- The pdf copy of the essay must be submitted to the professor via e-mail.
- In the essay, the assessment depends on:
    1. A clear composition (without spelling mistakes), and a thorough use of notes and quotations (20%).
    2. A proper arrangement of the argument—clear and true premises and conclusions and a valid inference (30%).
    3. The relevance of the subject for the course (30%).
    4. The relevance of the bibliography for the subject of the essay, and the absence of important papers and books for the subject in the reference list (20%)

Second call: as indicated in the previous call.

6. Sustainable Development Goals

4 - Quality Education
10 - Reduction of Inequalities
11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities