

Course Description of Ascii 1110:

Ascii 1110 is the Gateway Course into the BAS program. Divided into multiple thematic areas, this course is an introduction into the social, political, and cultural dimensions of science and technology: we will study how science and technology are embedded in society. In the 21st century we are quite literally 'surrounded by science': science impacts the world, and the world impacts science. Science, and the technology that grows out of it, enter into all aspects of our lives: food, transportation, communication, health, entertainment, all the human-made physical objects that surround us, our understanding of the natural and social worlds, and just about everything else. In this course, we will examine a number of 'cases' which will help us understand science as a human practice with all the consequences that this entails. We will also consider science as a human activity that has been shaped by particular individuals and their circumstances, as well as by larger social and cultural contexts. Issues of diversity will also be considered. The historical focus of the course will be post 1900.