

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY (MINOR)

Department Website (<https://www.nyu.edu/students/academic-services/undergraduate-advisement/unique-academic-opportunities/cross-school-minors/cross-school-minors-alphabetically/minor-in-science-and-society.html>)

Program Description

The minor in Science and Society is richly and inherently cross-disciplinary, drawing on the course offerings and faculty expertise of the College of Arts and Science, the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and the NYU Tandon School of Engineering. The minor analyzes how the techniques and methodologies of the humanities and social sciences can be used to illuminate both the context and content of science, technology, and medicine. Drawing upon history, philosophy, anthropology, and sociology, students investigate how culture and society frame—and, indeed, are themselves framed by—science, technology, and medicine.

The current influence of scientific, technological, and medical issues on our lives is unprecedented, altering our notions of race, health, responsibility, ownership, ethics, aesthetics, and self. We are therefore obliged to understand these critical interactions with a view to understand, and intervene in, the world. The types of questions this minor poses include: How has gene patenting affected both the content and conduct of molecular biology, as well as intellectual property law? What is the relationship between the mathematical descriptions that physicists employ and the nature of physical phenomena? What are the ethical and political issues involved in human embryonic stem cell research? How do machines shape aesthetics? What, if anything, is the difference between a machine and a human? How does nature have a history?

This minor serves as an enlightening complement to pre-health studies, pre-law studies relevant to intellectual property, biotechnology, and environmental and healthcare studies. It also provides a potent training to those interested in pursuing advanced degrees in the history, philosophy, sociology, or anthropology of science, technology, or medicine.

Minor Declaration

To request declaration of a minor, CAS students should visit the host department. To request declaration of a cross-school minor, CAS students should complete the online Minor Application available in their Albert Student Center. Students may also use the Minor Application (<https://www.nyu.edu/students/student-information-and-resources/registration-records-and-graduation/forms-policies-procedures.html>) in Albert to request cancellation of a CAS or cross-school minor.

Program Requirements

The minor in Science and Society requires the completion of four 4-credit courses (16 credits) with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count), comprised of the following:

Course	Title	Credits
Required Course		
HIST-UA 66	Introduction to Science and Society	4
Electives		

Select three approved elective courses from the list of electives below	12
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Total Credits	16
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Electives

College of Arts and Science

Course	Title	Credits
ANTH-UA 107	Medical Anthropology	4
ANTH-UA 108	Global Biocultures: Anthropological Perspectives on Public Health	4
CSCI-UA 472	Artificial Intelligence	4
ENVST-UA 9450	Topics in Environmental Values & Society:	4
HIST-UA 79	Pandemics in World History	4
HIST-UA 135	Science and Society in Early Modern Europe	4
HIST-UA 158	History of Medicine	4
HIST-UA 202	The History of Western Medicine	4
HIST-UA 293	Seminar in History of Medicine	4
HIST-UA 401	Seminar:	4
HIST-UA 569	Topics:	4
HIST-UA 572	African Ways of Knowing	4
JOUR-UA 503	Journalism and Society:	4
PHIL-UA 5	Minds and Machines	4
PHIL-UA 50	Medical Ethics	4
PHIL-UA 53	Ethics & The Environment	4
PHIL-UA 80	Philosophy of Mind	4
PHIL-UA 88	How Science Works	4
PHIL-UA 90	Philosophy of Science	4
PHIL-UA 91	Philosophy of Biology	4
PSYCH-UA 53	Psychological Science and Society Lab	4
SCA-UA 158	Race & Reproduction	4
SOC-UA 414	Sociology of Medicine	4
SOC-UA 935	Seminar in Sociology	4

Gallatin School of Individualized Study

Course	Title	Credits
IDSEM-UG 1059	Disease and Civilization	4
IDSEM-UG 1207	Origins of The Atomic Age	4
IDSEM-UG 1294	Health, Humanities, and Culture	4
IDSEM-UG 1298	Ecology and Environmental Thought	4
IDSEM-UG 1339	Foucault: Biopolitics and the Care of the Self	4
IDSEM-UG 1514	Science and Religion	4
IDSEM-UG 1516	Understanding The Universe	4
IDSEM-UG 1534	The Seen and The Unseen in Science	4
IDSEM-UG 1566	History of European Environmental Sciences	4
IDSEM-UG 1801	Minds and Bodies: A History of Neuroscience	4
IDSEM-UG 1814	Darwin's Origin of Species	2
IDSEM-UG 1891	Tinkering in Feminist Technoscience	4
IDSEM-UG 1911	Magic Bullets/Blockbuster Brands: Drugs, Disease and Chem in the Modern World	4
IDSEM-UG 1961	The Western History of Madness from the Bible to DSM-5	4
IDSEM-UG 2018	Life Among the Machines	4

NYU Abu Dhabi

Course	Title	Credits
CSTS-UH 1036	Progress in Science	4

NYU Shanghai

Course	Title	Credits
HUMN-SHU 110	What is Science and Technology Studies?	4

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

Course	Title	Credits
FOOD-UE 1033	Food Systems: Food and Agriculture	4
FOOD-UE 1180	Food and Nutrition Global Society	4
MCC-UE 1026	Disability, Technology and media	4
MCC-UE 1034	Technology and Society	4
MCC-UE 1036	On The Phone: Telephone and Mobile Technology	4
MCC-UE 1411	Visual Culture of Medicine and Technology	4
NUTR-UE 1184	Food Science & Tech	3

Tandon School of Engineering

Course	Title	Credits
STS-UY 2244	Magic, Medicine and Science	4
STS-UY 3004	Sem in Science & Tech Studies	4
STS-UY 3204	Science and Difference	4

General Information

Many courses in the minor fall into one of the following four clusters: technology, physics, biology/pre-health, and environmental sciences. Students are strongly encouraged, however, to be creative and challenge themselves to think in ways other than those that are strictly categorical. For example, a student interested in understanding the difference between the natural and the artificial might take the following three elective courses in addition to the required Introduction to Science and Society course: Philosophy of Biology; Humans, Machines, and Aesthetics; and Nature and Technology in Modern America.

Students are strongly encouraged to take courses in the various NYU schools contributing to the minor. This will expose them to a plethora of diverse pedagogical experiences and greatly enhance co-learning. All CAS students may apply 16 credits taken in the other schools of NYU toward their degree. Students seeking to raise this limit so as to accommodate the course work of the minor in Science and Society must consult with the College of Arts and Science Advising Center or CAS Academic Standards, 25 West 4th Street, 5th and 6th floors respectively; 212-998-8130. Note that, with the exception of the Graduate School of Arts and Science, courses taken in the other schools of NYU do not count toward the 64-credit residency requirement in CAS (-UA) courses for internal and external transfers to the College.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).