Introduction to Science & Technology Policy

STS 5614 (CRN: 17069)  
Spring 2012  
3 Credit Hours  
Time: Monday, 7-9:45PM  
Locations: NVC, room TBA

Instructor: Sonja D. Schmid  
Phone: 703.538.8482  
E-mail: sschmid@vt.edu  
Office Hours: by appointment

Introduction
The study of science and technology policy has been dominated by two approaches. The first treats science as a tool for policy, as summed up by the notion of “science speaking truth to power.” The second focuses on policy designed to shape the organization and conduct of science. This approach has historically looked at government R&D policy. Both approaches have been dominated by modes of analysis that understand science and policy as separate spheres, which are brought together and in the process are corrupted or edified. In this graduate seminar, we will explore approaches to science and technology policy that avoid such sphere-based or linear models. Using recent work in Science and Technology Studies, we will treat science, technology, policy, and social order as co-produced. Case studies will be used to illustrate how this co-production of science, technology, and social order plays out in actual policy-making environments. Readings will include theoretical texts, but also very practical ones; explorations of current topics, but also historical work. Sample topics include the co-production framework, history of US science and technology policy, agents of science and technology policy, integrity of research, peer review, and S&TP in international contexts.

Readings
Five books are recommended for purchase (available through the bookstore and online); all remaining readings are available online through the course website on Scholar (“Resources”).


Assignments and Expectations
Active participation in class discussion and regular attendance is expected. Assignments include moderating class discussion at least once a semester, writing short weekly responses to the readings, peer review of your colleagues’ drafts, writing a research paper on a topic of your choice, and presenting your work in class.

Academic Conduct
The VT Honor Code will be enforced in this course. That means zero tolerance for academic violations such as cheating, plagiarism, and falsification. For more details, please consult [http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu](http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu) and [http://www/english.vt.edu/plagiarism/plagiarism1.html](http://www/english.vt.edu/plagiarism/plagiarism1.html).