

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM

SECTION III. INTEGRATIVE STUDIES - INTERDISCIPLINARY

1. COURSE NUMBER: **PHIL 307i** SEMESTER HOURS: **3**

COURSE TITLE: **Philosophy of Science, Nature and Technology**
Start Date: Fall 1996
2. COURSE FORMAT: Lectures and discussion (faculty). Average class size: 35.
3. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students should be able to: (a) gain necessary understanding of key conceptual ideas to read competently in genres of philosophy of science and philosophy of technology in the 20th century (and beyond); (b) use (a) to critically engage issues in philosophy of science and technology; and (c) acquire the conceptual, interpretative and analytical tools to understand and develop one's own perspective on these issues.
4. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will examine certain major issues and themes in contemporary approaches to philosophy of science and philosophy of technology, and the course will be divided into two parts. The first part of the course is devoted to contemporary trends in philosophy of science as exemplified by the work of Thomas Kuhn and Bruno Latour. In this part of the course, we will see how contemporary philosophy of science integrates certain "post modern" motifs in pursuing what one might call a constructivist approach to understanding science and scientific practice. The second part of the course is devoted to two major trends in philosophy of technology – the phenomenological approach (Martin Heidegger, Don Ihde) and the pragmatic approach (Larry Hickman). In this part of the course, we will examine several key ideas regarding the nature of technology and the possibilities for an ethical relationship to technology. We will also examine certain emerging technologies in light of these two approaches.
5. REQUIRED READING: Hickman, *Philosophical Tools for Technological Culture: Putting Pragmatism to Work*; Ihde, *Bodies in Technology*; Latour, *Science in Action: How to Follow Scientists and Engineers through Society*; Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*; selections from the work of John Dewey, Martin Heidegger (*Basic Writings*), Don Ihde and Karl Popper.
6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:
 - Randomly assigned in-class reading quizzes and occasional one-page writing assignments (20%)
 - One midterm exegetical paper, 6-8 pages (30%)
 - A final paper, 12 pages (50%)
7. ADVANCED UCC COURSE(S): None

2/9/06