

STS.092 Spring Term 2003
Current Events from an STS Perspective

Goals of class

Developing a conceptual vocabulary and analytical framework based on STS studies
Building up a knowledge base about the world
Practicing and improving reading, writing, and speaking skills

Assignments

Reading: read The New York Times for a half hour daily
Bring in one article to each class that you found particularly interesting during the week
Other readings as assigned

Lecture: in most classes I will take 20 minutes to discuss the history and implications of STS studies
These lectures should inform your writing assignments, both the weekly ones and the book review
Take your own notes, but I will also hand out notes later on in the term

Speaking: read a 2-page short paper at each class session
Participate in discussion of questions raised by students' papers
You may be called upon to contribute to discussion; you may also be asked to let others have more opportunity to speak

Writing: write a 2-page short paper for each class session
Most of these papers will comment upon and raise questions about the week's news
Some assignments will be more specific, i.e. write a letter to the editor or an op-ed piece, write as if you were living somewhere other than in the U.S, write about what's not in the newspaper.....
All assignments should be revised, compiled, and submitted (both electronically and in hard copy) to the instructor at the middle of the term and at the end of the term.

Term project: read a book from the list provided and write a 4-5 page review summarizing and explaining how the book presents an STS perspective on the subject matter (we will discuss this assignment more in class)
If there is time, students will give a 10-minute presentation in class on their review.

No final exam

Grading criteria

Discussion: 15%
Short assignments: 65%
Book review: 20%