Office hours: I have office hours on Friday afternoons after 2pm, and I am available at other times during the week. For graduate students I recommend that you email me first so that we can set up a half hour or hour to talk at leisure.

This course will develop a basic understanding of the history of social theory traditions that have shaped the major theory traditions of sociology and other social sciences. The course will begin with the social theory traditions of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. We will also examine how those social theory traditions have informed contemporary social science research on science and technology. The second part of the course will focus on globalization and contemporary historical change, and it will focus on developing a basic knowledge of political economy and institutional theory traditions as they apply to central issues in the study of globalization, science, and technology.

Texts:  We will try to have all texts on reserve. Those that have ISBN numbers and prices will be available for purchase.

Work and Grading Policy:
55%  There will be 11 weekly writing assignments. These are short essays on the readings that are due at the start of the class. (There is no written assignment for the first class.) You should not repeat the readings but evaluate the concepts, arguments, etc. and compare them with other readings. If you want me to read the assignment before the start of class, I will need to receive a print copy in my mailbox by Weds. at noon.
25%  A ten-page paper on a topic of your choice (I would hope related to your dissertation or research area interest) in which you apply or develop some of the concepts in the course for your planned area of empirical research.
20%  This will be a discussion-style seminar, so class attendance and participation are important.  (14 weeks)
Grade modifiers are now in effect.

I am assigning several chapters from Christopher Chase-Dunn and Salvatore Babones, Global Social Change (2006, John Hopkins), and I recommend purchase of the book.

Intellectual honesty policy:  Students are free to study with other students and are in fact encouraged to discuss the readings outside class, but they are expected to write up weekly assignments individually. Individual assignments should be substantially different from one another. Students should not copy sources or take ideas from sources without providing a full citation (either footnote or name-and-date); plagiarism is described in the student handbook. The content of all lectures and handouts prepared by the professor are
his property and should not be circulated to anyone who is not in the class, either in print or via electronic means. Posting of class notes electronically and plagiarism of assignments will result in an F in the class. By taking this course, you agree to complete the assignments, abide by the intellectual honesty policy, and attend class with the weekly reading and assignment completed before class.

I. Concepts in Social Theory and Their Relationship to STS

1. January 19 Societal Change

2. January 26 Thought and Social Structure
Durkheim, Emile. 1915. Ch. 3 “Totemic Beliefs—Continued” of *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life* (Free Press).
Haraway, Donna. “Biopolitics of a Multicultural Field,” Ch. 10 of *Primate Visions* (Routledge)

3. February 2 Exchange and Prestige
Latour, Bruno, and Steve Woolgar, Ch. 5 “Cycles of Credit” of *Laboratory Life* (Princeton).
4. February 9  Power and Fields
Skim for background: Hess, Alternative Pathways in Science and Industry, chs. 1-3

5. February 16 Social Movements and Civil Society

II. Historical Sociology, Globalization, and Science and Technology

6. February 23 Modernity in Various Theory Traditions
Parsons, Talcott. 1977. Ch. 1 “Parsons’ Theory of Societal Evolution” and ch. 7 “The Emergence of National Communities,” in The Evolution of Societies (Prentice-Hall). (His functionalism is generally viewed as a Weber-Durkheim synthesis.)
7. February 27 Late Modernity and the Ecological Crises of Capitalism


8. March 16 The Political Economy of Globalization

Hall, Thomas, and Christopher Chase-Dunn. 2006. “Global Social Change in the Long Run.” In Christopher Chase-Dunn and Salvatore Babones, eds., Global Social Change (Johns Hopkins).


I’m also going to ask Govind Gopakumar if he would mind having us read his dissertation proposal for this class.

10. March 30 Globalization, Political Economy, and Information Technology


I suggest taking a look at other articles in the special issue, and I’d like each of you to select an additional article for presentation in the class.

11. April 6 Globalization and Science


12. April 13 Social Movements, Publics, and Science and Technology


13.- 14. April 20, April 27. We will discuss additional readings for the remaining weeks based on student interest.