

136-340 The Ways of Science (Science 3)

Credit Points:	12.500
Level:	Undergraduate
Dates & Locations:	This subject is not offered in 2008. *
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week Total Time Commitment: *
Prerequisites:	Two second-year HPS subjects.
Corequisites:	*
Recommended Background Knowledge:	*
Non Allowed Subjects:	*
Core Participation Requirements:	*
Coordinator:	Assoc Prof Helen Verran
Subject Overview:	A study of the social lives of gadgets and gizmos, concepts and theories. The social location of the sciences is changing, sciences are being privatised and militarised. The technoscientific objects and scientific concepts and theories that come out of these endeavours will reflect and express these origins. How do we analyse their social, moral and political consequences and attributes? Proceeding through case-studies, this subject examines some frameworks for analysing relations between science, technology, and society. Cases are chosen to demonstrate a range of contemporary approaches to analysis. We may consider early attempts to develop an electric car in France, ask about the nature of digital objects, and contrast the admirable Zimbabwe Bush pump with the never built TRSII British war plane. We might find ourselves asking about Piagetian theories of children's learning and Robert Boyle's theory of the spring of air'. Students are supported in carrying out a small research project on the social life of a gadget/gizmo/theory/concept of their choice.
Assessment:	Written work totalling 6000 words comprising a 3000 word essay 50% (due in week 8) and a 3000 word research report 50% (due at the end of swot vac).
Prescribed Texts:	*
Recommended Texts:	Information Not Available
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # develop skills in written and oral communication; # conduct independent research; # make appropriate use of primary and secondary sources in mounting an argument; # form defensible judgements based on a critical evaluation of conflicting arguments.
Notes:	Previously available as Science, Technology & Society. Students who have completed Science, Technology & Society may not enrol in this subject. Only available at science third year; for all other levels see . Students cannot gain credit for this subject and 136-226/326 before 1999 or 136/040 after 1999. This subject is based on 136-040 but involves additional work.