

LFSAB1801

2010-2011

Critical History of Science and Technology

2.0 credits	15.0 h + 15.0 h	2g

Teacher(s):	De Grave Patricia ; Vanderburgh David (coordinator) ; Riche Jacques ;	
Language :	Français	
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve	
Main themes :	The course covers basic facts concerning: - the emergence of science ("pure" knowledge of nature) - the development of the interface between science and technology (knowledge AND the transformation of nature) - the development of the science/technology/economy interface (knowledge AND transformation of nature AND the economic exchange). The course will develop the understanding of the current situation of engineering as a product of history as a driving force in contemporary society. The course will question and evaluate the disciplinary autonomy of the scientific approach, looking at what factors influence or have influenced its development. The course will put the triple relation of science/technologie/economy into critical perspective.	
Aims :	By the end of the course, students will be able to: Understand the contemporary context of engineering, its "double" participation in the scientific and technological worlds, in the light of its historical roots; Understand engineering (from its roots to the present day) as integrally related within the complexity of social relations, economic interests and cultural transformations; Deploy basic knowledge regarding the historical development of science and technology (acquiring "the basics" of the history of engineering culture); Become familiar with a critical and analytical approach to the development of engineering disciplines. The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".	
Content:	The course covers basic facts concerning: - the emergence of science ("pure" knowledge of nature) - the development of the interface between science and technology (knowledge AND the transformation of nature) - the development of the science/technology/economy interface (knowledge AND transformation of nature AND the economic exchange). The course will develop the understanding of the current situation of engineering as a product of history as a driving force in contemporary society. The course will question and evaluate the disciplinary autonomy of the scientific approach, looking at what factors influence or have influenced its development. The course will put the triple relation of science/technologie/economy into critical perspective.	
Other infos :	No pre-requisite for this course. Evaluation based on intermediate and final examinations and a short, reflective group exercise.	
Cycle and year of study:	 > Bachelor in Engineering : Architecture > Bachelor in Engineering 	
Faculty or entity in charge:	BTCI	