**THE TRINITY COLLEGE 'STS' CODE**

**From the Curriculum 2000 Report:**

"We seek for students to:

- Know the historical and/or philosophical development of a given scientific or technological subject. Students need to develop the analytic skills necessary to examine the scientific, political, and/or societal factors that ultimately came to bear on the development and application of the particular topic.

- Understand the contemporary issues relating to the development and application of a particular area of science and technology. Exposures should address current and future issues by critically assessing the aesthetic, ethical, sociological, and political, in addition to scientific, factors that bear on the issue."

**From the bulletin**

"If students are to be prepared to analyze and evaluate the scientific and technological issues that will confront them and to understand the world around them, they need exposure to basic scientific concepts and to the processes by which scientific and technical advances are made and incorporated into society. They need to understand … not only how science and technology have influenced the direction and development of society, but also how the needs of society have influenced the direction of science and technology.

**What is an STS course?**

An STS course must satisfy one of the following conditions:

- It examines in a sustained fashion the impact of major scientific or technological developments on political, economic, philosophical, ecological or sociological aspects of society.

- It addresses in a sustained fashion the historical, social, political, and/or economic roots of scientific or technological fields or phenomena.

For example:

- A course on the history of the theory of evolution would not be an STS course; however, a course that described the interplay between evolutionary theory and society, including such topics as social Darwinism, eugenics, Creationism, the Human Genome Project, and in vitro gender selection, would be perfectly appropriate for the STS code.
- An economics course that included three weeks of lectures on market factors associated with computers would not be an STS course, because the treatment would not be sufficiently sustained. But a course on the economic impact of computing could receive the STS code.
- A literature course on alienation in the 20$^{th}$ Century would not receive the STS code; however, a course that studied alienation as a result of modern technology (e.g., automobiles provided the mobility that broke down nuclear families, cities provided the anonymity that permits crime, television provides solitary entertainment) would be fine.

- A course on quattrocento Florentine art history would not satisfy the STS; however, if the course examined how new economic markets for art arose, how the lost wax technique permitted intricate casting, how medieval cathedral technology and skilled guilds were needed for the construction of Brunelleschi's Dome, how artists developed "factories" with division of labor for fast production, then it would meet the criteria for an STS course.

**To help the Course Committee approve your proposal for an STS code:**

- Describe the specific social issues that are part of the course, the science/technology that is part of the course, and indicate how their interaction will be addressed.

- Make a clear case that the course gives sustained treatment of the interaction

[A&S Committee on Courses, 2009]