Final Paper Topics
U8400, U.S. Science and Technology Policy
Spring 2001

Final papers are due Friday, May 4 by 5pm in 401 Low Library. Papers should be double-spaced and no more than 20 pages. In writing these papers, please take advantage of a variety of sources and experts, in addition to your own knowledge and what you have gained from class. Also, please keep in mind that spelling, grammar and organization are an important part of a serious paper.

1. Design a new science policy for the country of your choice. The policy design should begin with a set of 25-year and 50-year social and economic outcomes. Your analysis should include a set of existing indicators and a set of desired indicators. These indicators should include life expectancy, per capita income, quality of life, trade, etc. The policy design must be limited to a core of science and technology policies and programs. The paper should also review the implementation steps, as well as the inherent risks of moving forward with such a policy. The country you choose must be a country other than your own.

2. Critically evaluate the reasons why U.S. science policy is driven largely by inputs, as opposed to outcomes. What are the practical, philosophical, political, scientific, economic and cultural explanations? Given these explanations, what are the design options and pathways for a new outcome-driven policy?

3. If science is the prime driver of social and economic change, what are the risks and benefits of this fact to society? Explain each category of risk and benefit in detail.