COURSE OUTLINE:
The objective of the course is to enable students to understand science as a socio-cultural product in specific socio-historical contexts. The course exposes students to philosophical, historical and sociological perspectives to look at science as a practice deeply embedded in culture and society. It emphasizes the dynamic nature of the relations between wider cultural practices on one hand and scientific practices on the other. The attempt is to equip students with an understanding indispensable for an in-depth study of science-technology-society dynamics.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR:
Prof. Sambit Mallick is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. He specializes in the sociology of science and technology, and also includes historical sociology and philosophy of the social sciences among his research interests. His research and teaching are at the intersection of 'philosophy', social theory, and science and technology studies. His courses under NPTEL have attracted a large number of students even from the remote areas in India and abroad.

COURSE PLAN:
Week 1: Introduction: Perspectives on the relations between science, technology and society: hierarchical, symbiotic and coalescing
Week 2: Demarcation, autonomy and cognitive authority of science and challenges - I
Week 3: Demarcation, autonomy and cognitive authority of science and challenges - II
Week 4: Demarcation, autonomy and cognitive authority of science and challenges - III
Week 5: Demarcation, autonomy and cognitive authority of science and challenges - IV
Week 6: Science as a social institution and the ethos of science
Week 7: Inequalities in science
Week 8: Technological shaping of society
Week 9: Social shaping of technology
Week 10: Information society - I
Week 11: Information society - II
Week 12: Science policies in India