

LAC/LOS 310

Technology in Society

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Technology in Society is an elective course in the Leadership and Organizational Studies undergraduate program. (The course is required for the Managing Information Systems minor.) The goal of the course is to help students explore the major issues surrounding technology's impact on their personal and professional lives. Using film, literature, and writings from a variety of disciplines, students analyze various arguments surrounding how technological change has affected the manner in which we live and how we may control technology in the future. In order to help them effectively articulate their ideas about the concepts covered in the course, students are asked to do many formal and informal writings about their impressions of the topics and to actively participate in class discussions.

Texts

Required

Asimov, I. (1957). *The naked sun*. New York: Ballantine.

Hacker, D. (1998). *The Bedford handbook*. Boston: Bedford Books.

Teich, A. (2000). *Technology and the future*. New York: St. Martin's.

Volti, R. (1995). *Society and technological change*. New York: St. Martin's.

Course Outline

Week One Spt. 5th	Course Orientation <i>Watch The Matrix</i> After class: Post response to <i>The Matrix</i> on the listserve
Week Two Spt. 12th	Orientations <i>Technology mapping groups assigned & IT resources orientation</i> Readings: Volti - Chapters 1 & 2 Assignments Due: Responses to each of the readings
Week Three Spt. 19th	The Process of Technological Change Readings: Volti - Chapters 3, 4, & 5 Assignments Due: Responses to two of the readings
Week Four Spt. 26th	The Process of Technological Change (cont.) Readings: Volti - Chapters 6 & 7 Assignments Due: Responses to each of the readings
Week Five Oct. 3rd	Technology and the Transformation of Work Readings: Volti - Chapters 8, 9, & 10 Assignments Due: Responses to two of the readings
Week Six Oct. 17th	Communication Readings: Volti - Chapters 11 & 12 Assignments Due: Group presentation and paper

Week Seven Oct. 24th	The Tools of Destruction Readings: Volti - Chapters 13 & 14 Assignments Due: Responses to each of the readings
Week Eight Oct. 31st	The Shaping and Control of Technology Readings: Volti - Chapters 15, 16, & 17 Assignments Due: Responses to two of the readings
Week Nine Nov. 7th	Thinking About Technology & Debating Technology: 1960s Style Readings: Hughes - Technological Momentum Berry - Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer Mesthene - The Role of Technology in Society McDermott - Technology: The Opiate of the Intellectuals Assignments Due: Responses to two of the readings
Week Ten Nov. 14th	Alternative Perspectives on Technology Readings: Schumacher - Buddhist Economics Sclove - Technological Politics As If Democracy Really Mattered Wajcman - Feminist Perspectives on Technology Winner - Do Artifacts Have Politics? Assignment Due: Two copies of a well-developed draft of your paper
Week Eleven Nov. 21st	Dilemmas of New Technology: Genetics Readings: Weinberg - The Dark Side of the Genome Charo - And Baby Makes Three - or Four, or Five, or Six Kass - The Wisdom of Repugnance Assignments Due: Evaluations of two of your classmates papers
Week Twelve Nov. 28th	Dilemmas of New Technology: The Information Age Readings: Forester & Morrison - Computer Ethics Cate - Electronic Privacy in the Twenty-First Century Zuboff - In the Age of the Smart Machine Assignments Due: Responses to two of the readings
Week Thirteen Dec. 5th	Debating Technology: Turn of the Millennium Style Readings: Negroponte - Being Digital Norman - Being Analog Assignment Due: Final paper
Week Fourteen Dec. 12th	Technology and Society in Fiction Reading: Asimov - The Naked Sun (including preface) Assignment Due: Response to novel

At any point in the semester, if you encounter difficulty with the course or feel you could be performing at a higher level, consult with me. Students experience difficulties in courses for a variety of reasons. For problems with writing skills, see Karen Hall at the Writing Center (room 163A, 753-6513); with computer skills, see the computer tutors in the computer lab (room 118, 753-6562); and with other academic skills, see Margaret Park (room 129, 753-6573). Help is also available for personal counseling from Carol Sadler (room 130, 753-6558) and for academic support for students with disabilities from Mary Sylvain-Leonas (room 127, 753-6561).

Grading

In order to pass the course **all** work must be completed.

20 pts. Participation

Attendance is extremely important. Missing class is not recommended. Classroom discussions will focus on developing your ability to use the material we will be covering in meaningful ways. Also, please note that participation is 10% of your grade. If you must miss class, contact me in advance to make arrangements to get handouts, announcements, etc. If you miss three or more classes, you will lose all points for attendance and will be expected to do additional work.

Most class periods, we will reserve about an hour of the class for **student led discussions**. When you are selected to lead discussions, you will be expected to engage the rest of the class in lively exchanges about the topics we are exploring that day.

60 pts. Weekly assignments

You will hand in reading **responses** for some of the readings assigned and for the movie we will watch in class. Each one-page, informal response should identify and briefly explain the topic/concept in the reading that you found most beneficial/interesting and then use an illustrative example to state how this topic/concept applies to your experiences.

40 pts. Technology Mapping Group Project

The class will be divided into groups during the second week to prepare creative and engaging 15-minute **technology mapping** presentations for the sixth week of class. As a group, you will choose one particular technology to present. In your class presentations, you will map how the technology has changed over time and describe how our lives have changed due to these technological events. In addition, your group will be expected to prepare a written form of your presentation to hand in. Group presentations will be videotaped so that you may review your presentation style. You will be expected to view the tape after it is placed on reserve at the library.

80 pts. Final paper

You will write an in-depth **final paper** at the end of the term. Two copies of a well-developed draft (an 8-10 page paper) will be due in the tenth week so that two of your classmates may evaluate it for you. In turn, you will be required to evaluate two of your classmates' papers by the eleventh week of class. Your final draft will be due in class in the thirteenth week of the course. I will reserve some time during classes at the end of the term to answer questions you may have about your finals. In addition, I encourage you to meet with me during office hours or to see Karen Hall in the Writing Center if you wish more input while you are writing the final. The finals will be evaluated not only for content but also for structure, grammar, spelling, etc. After papers are returned, students who wish to may further revise their work. All revisions will be due at the end of the final week of the term.

Grading Scale

A	186 to 200 pts.	C	146 to 153 pts.
A-	180 to 185 pts.	C-	140 to 145 pts.
B+	174 to 179 pts.	D+	134 to 139 pts.
B	166 to 173 pts.	D	120 to 133 pts.
B-	160 to 165 pts.	F	0 to 119 pts.
C+	154 to 159 pts.		

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.