Science, Technology and Society STAS 325 L01
Technology within Contemporary Society
Fall 2014
Mon Sept. 8 – Fri. Dec 5
Lectures W,F 12:00pm-12:50pm; Labs 1-4: M 9:00am-9:50am, 10:00am-10:50am,
11:00am-11:50am, 12:00pm-12:50pm. Lab 5: M 10:00am-10:50am

Instructor:	Dr. Cooper H Langford
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Web Page:	http:// See course D2L available through MyUofC portal.
Office Hours:	W,F 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course Description

This course will examine a series of key questions about technology in our lives centred around the issue 'does technology control us or does our society control technology?' Examples of questions the course will include are the following:

- Does technology determine how it is used?
- Does it lead to sustainable abundance or ecological crisis?
- Through technology do we work more or less, in ways that are better or worse?
- Is technology leading toward cultural uniformity or diversity?
- Is technology predictable?

These questions do not have unambiguous answers and the course will invite you to begin from your own experience with technology, analyze aspects of them and develop your own perspectives, aided by insights from lectures and reading drawn from several disciplines.

Additional Information

The above office hours will be observed as closely as possible, but meetings and similar appointments often interfere. I am happy to meet with students at other times and I am normally available between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Some evening appointments could be arranged. The best option is to send an email, giving two times that are good for you and I will reply.

Objectives of the Course

The key objective of the course is to stimulate thinking about how technology shapes contemporary society and how and to what extent society shapes technology and chooses its roles.

The course provides an opportunity to enhance skills in analytic thinking as well as written and oral communication.

Textbooks and Readings
1. David E. Nye *Technology Matters: Questions to Live With*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 2006. (paperback) This text is available on-line at the library, but having a hard copy (inexpensive, approx. $20.00) is highly desirable. You will probably want access to it during the Monday sessions.

2. Thomas P. Hughes *Human-Built World: How to Think about Technology and Culture*, Kindle edition eBook ($9.99 - recommended version). A paperback copy costs $13.00.

The textbooks chapters are not long. Additional reading found through the course D2L will accompany topics to give a different perspective and you will need to use library and internet resources for the term project.

Internet and electronic communication device information
This course will use interactive classroom technology called *TopHat* Items presented in class on screen can be answered by text message or on the website. Your cell phone with the TopHat number stored will be the best tool. The university has acquired a site license for this service. You will be able to register with www.tophat.com at no charge.

Assignments and Evaluation
In addition to lectures, the course will have a series (normally 7) of short group assignments based on a discussion of an issue related to one of the topic questions raised by Nye. The assignment papers will be developed from group discussions in class and written in the Monday "lab" class. These short in class group papers (along with one mark available for participation in Top Hat will count for 15% of the course mark. The grade will be based on the *best seven* of these 8 items. In the Top Hat grade, participation counts.

A first intra-term test with both short answer and an essay questions is tentatively scheduled for October 10th class. It will count for 20% of the course mark. A second intra-term test is tentatively scheduled for November 17th class with both short answer and an essay questions. It will count for 25% of the course mark.

There will be a term project assignment based on analysis of a current or recent *controversy involving the uses of a technology*, identifying the perspectives of the major stakeholder groups and their relationships to each other. These will be completed as group work with a group of four to six participants. The results will be presented briefly in class near the end of term (11/19 – 12/05) and a project report (written or multi-media) will be due on the last day of classes. A brief term project proposal indicating the project group membership, title, aims, and initial bibliography will be due Oct. 6th.
The presentation will count for 10% of the term mark and the report for 25%.

All assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

5% of course mark will be based on participation in class, on D2L discussion groups, on Top hat (if counted in the 7) and as audience for others presentations.

There is NO registrar scheduled final examination.

(Note that 55% of the mark in this course is based on open ended student initiated activities.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.
Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your lecture or lab instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

All assignments and exams weighted more than _15__% must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see
http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

Policy for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. [Edit as you wish to reflect your policy]

Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

Writing Skills Statement
Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

Grading System & Dept of Communication and Culture Grade Scale

Work in this course , will be graded in the letter grade or 4-point scale (2.7, 3.0, 3.3) *rather than* percentages.   Sometimes you may receive grade points between letter grades. 3.5 is the mathematical mid-point between a B+ (3.3) and an A- (3.7) and 3.15 is the mid-point between a B (3.0) and a B+ (3.3), etc.. Only in the case of short answer questions on exam papers will the percentages given below guide assignment of the grade point value. Otherwise, all assignments and exam essays are graded on the letter grade scale.

The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in Communication and Culture:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%

0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208 . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics
If you consider any interviewing or surveys as a part of your term project, you must consult the instructor before undertaking any work on the project.

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 picarts@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY • **Calgary Police Service** • **Emergency Text Messaging** • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ **403-220-5333** **403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911** http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

• **Safewalk Program**	If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (**220-5333)**. For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support • **IT help line**	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE • **Writing Support Services** • **Student Services Mobile App**	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS • **Faculty of Arts Reps** • **Student Ombudsman**	http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE • **Counselling Services** • **Health Services** • **Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE** • **Online resources and tips**	**403-210-9355** (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings
 See the schedule posted on D2L.