Science, Technology and Society (STAS) 325: Lecture 60
Technology within Contemporary Society
Summer 2012
Tuesday & Thursday: 12:00 - 14:50
SB 105

Instructor: Amanda Williams

Office Location: SS209

E-Mail: williaam@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course will examine a series of key questions about technology in our lives. Examples include:

- Does technology control us?
- Does technology lead to sustainable abundance or ecological crisis?
- Through technology do we work more or less, better or worse?
- Is technology leading to cultural uniformity or diversity?

The course will invite you to analyze aspects of these questions and develop your own perspectives aided by insights from lectures and readings drawn from several disciplines.

Objectives of the Course

The key objective of this course is to stimulate thinking about the roles of technology in contemporary society, and how society shapes the technology in those roles. This will provide an opportunity to enhance skills in analytical thinking, and written and oral communication.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are permitted in class as long as they are used EXCLUSIVELY for note taking. If this privilege is abused the instructor will request the student to come to class without their computer.

Cell phones should be turned off during class and texting is NEVER permitted.

Textbooks and Readings:

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) is highly desirable since you will probably want access to it during class

The textbook chapters are not long. You will need to use library and internet resources for the term project.

Assignments and Evaluation

The assignments and exams are intended to evaluate your knowledge of some of the major ideas and issues reviewed in class and your text.

1) Short Group Assignments (20%): The class has a series of short group assignments (5 with an optional one you can miss) based on a discussion of an issue related to one of the book's key questions. The assignments will be developed from discussions in class and written in class. There will be a very short individual preparatory assignment for each (ungraded, but necessary for the group work). These short in class group papers count for 25% (total) of the course mark. **YOU MUST ATTEND CLASS TO GET THESE GRADES (Dates are: July 10, July 17, July 24, July 26, July 31, Aug 2).**

2) Mid Term Test (20%): July 19- There will be a test with a mixture of questions (short answer and essay questions).

3) Group Project Assignment (25%): There is a term group project assignment based on analysis of a current or recent controversy involving the uses of a technology and the perspectives of the major stakeholder groups. These will be completed in a group of four students. The project will be presented briefly in class near the end of term (*Aug 9 & 14*) and a project report (written or multi-media) will be due on the last day of classes *(Aug 14)*. The presentation counts for **10%** of the term mark, and the report for **15%.**

4) Annotated Bibliography (5%): Each group will prepare a brief annotated bibliography for the group project. The annotated bibliography will be due on *July 17*.

5) Final Exam (30%): There will be a (Registrar scheduled) final examination that will include a mixture of questions (short answer and essay questions).

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.
Note: 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.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence**, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**
 For more information see also http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy**.**

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. 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

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

(Revised, effective September 2008)

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99

C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

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. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor Taylor Digital Family Library, http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

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

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see
http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see
http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see
http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:
http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:
http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A schedule of lectures and readings, and detailed assignment descriptions, will be made available on Blackboard.