



COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 209

SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY, AND VALUES

**45 HOURS
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Shawkat Shareef, Ph.D. DATE: 17 November, 2016

APPROVED BY: Andrew Richardson, Ph.D. DATE:

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL DATE:

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL DATE:



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APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
SOCI 209
3 credit course
Winter Semester, 2017

SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY, AND VALUES

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Shawkat Shareef

OFFICE HOURS: Tue. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

OFFICE LOCATION: A2303

CLASSROOM: A2601

E-MAIL:sshareef@yukoncollege.yk.ca

TIME: 1.00-4.00 p.m.

TELEPHONE: (867) 456-8604

DATES: Tuesdays
January 10 - April 21, 2017

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the interaction of three entities: The technologies developed by a society, the values of the individuals in that society, and its social organization. The goal of this course is to heighten students' powers of observation concerning technologies and to enhance their critical understanding of the changes new technologies may cause.

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Engl 100 with 100-level Soci, Anth or Phil recommended.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

CAMO Soc 200 lev (3)	KPU Soci 2xxx (3)	SFU SA 2xx (3)
TRU Soci 2XX0 (3)	TWU Soci 200 lev (3)	UBC Soci 2nd (3)
UFV Soc 2xx (3)	UNBC Sosc 2xx (3)	UVIC No Credit
UAF Soci F2S (3) (Social science credit)		
UR Soci 225 (3)		

For more information about transferability contact the School of Liberal Arts

YOU, ME, SOCIETY AND TECHNOLOGY

Have you really thought about the fact that we cannot live without cell phones, cars, internet, and all the other amenities that we think and believe have made our lives easier, faster, and certainly more comfortable here in North America? Indeed, technology and science together have changed the face of the earth, the nature of human interactions or communication, reproductive scenarios, food culture/habit to the extent that the societies all over the world try to implement them, and try not to resist them. However, have science and technology been benevolent, useful and sustainable for all societies, for all human kind? Surely, new technologies have helped some societies to prosper, but not all. In the era of globalization when we like to talk about would like to see social, economic, and political justice being delivered across human societies, it is important to understand the role science and technology play to either enhance those values or hinder them.

In this course, we will ask many questions, and will try to find out the answers: we understand technology has done wonders for humanity, but it's use and abuse have significantly shaped the core values in societies as well. To do that:

- Several theoretical frameworks regarding the tripartite relationships between society, technology and values will be introduced and discussed;
- Current issues and debates will be presented to further understand the theoretical claims of this threefold relationship;
- Current issues and debates will be presented to further understand the theoretical claims of this threefold relationship;
- Alternative actions/pathways will be pondered in case of the abuse of technology that creates inequality, leading to injustice as a result.

COURSE FORMAT

Classes will consist of lectures on and discussions of the texts, readings and films/video clips specified and sometimes not specified in the course syllabus.

ASSESSMENTS

Participation

Participation in class is essential to the development of class unity and the learning process for everyone. Group discussion offers students a forum in which to express ideas and be educated through the ideas of others. We will create together a respectful environment where everyone will feel safe and encouraged to speak. This means that students and instructor must monitor their speech so as not to give more

than their fair share.

Students will also write a number of short assignments demonstrating their understanding of theories about families and the practical implications of those theories in the understanding of aboriginal, non-aboriginal and immigrant families. There are no points assigned to these assignments, but performance on these short assignments (both completion and quality) will be added to the overall participation grade as a percentage. Also, these assignments will help stimulate the discussions the class.

Assignments

Students will write one research paper on a self-researched topic about technology and values in society. The paper topic must be approved by the instructor. The paper should be documented and formatted according to APA style and 10 double-spaced pages in length, excluding references.

Deadlines

Marks will be deducted for late assignments: 1 mark, out of 30, per day up to 5 days, at which time the assignment will not be accepted for marking. If delays are unavoidable because of extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness or bereavement), students must consult with the instructor and receive permission for an extension. Illness of over 2 days must be confirmed by a doctor's note.

Paper Submission

The research paper should be submitted to the Applied Arts Office or in the hallway drop box (outside the Applied Arts Office) for after-hours delivery. Office staff will date stamp the receipt of the assignment and make sure it gets to the instructor. Do not slip assignments under the instructor's office door, as they will not be dated and can go missing. Also, electronic submission of assignments to the instructor will not be accepted.

Tests

There are two exams in this course, a mid-term and a final exam. Examinations will cover lecture material, assigned readings, and possibly some film/video clip content. The mid-term exam may be composed of short questions and long essays. These questions cover the course to that point in the term. The final exam is scheduled during exam week. It covers the course from mid-term to near the end of term and will follow a similar format to the mid-term, covering course content from the mid-term and, possibly, overviews of the course.

Other

None

EVALUATION

Class participation	10	
Exam mid-term	25	(February 14)
Research Paper	25	(March 28)
Final Exam	40	TBA
TOTAL	100	

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Science, Technology, and Society: A Sociological Approach, Bauchspies W.K., Croissant J. and Restivo S. (2006). Blackwell. ISBN: 978-0-631-23209-4.

Supplementary materials: videos, excerpts from peer-reviewed journals, papers, and discussions from various sources will be used in this class. The titles and topics of videos and video clips will be announced in advance in class. Whenever journals and papers are unavailable on the Internet, hardcopies will be distributed in class. If materials are available online, web links will be provided.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

Attendance is integral to student success. Discussion and participation are particularly important in this class, and students are expected to attend regularly and punctually. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to complete any work assigned.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see <http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in Section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Week	Topic
1 and 2	Chapter 1: Introduction: From the Sociology of Science to Science and Technology Studies
3 and 4	Chapter 2: Cultures of Science: Birth of a fact, Society and Culture, Worldviews
5 and 6	Chapter 2: Cultures of Science: The Social Construction Conjecture, Feminism and Science Studies
6: MIDTERM, FEB. 14	What is technology? Technology in Motion, Pre-Scientific: you or me? Mind and Society, What can Sociologists Say about Mathematics?
7 and 8:	Chapter 3: The Dance of Truth: Science and Technology as Social Institutions,
9 and 10:	Chapter 4: STS and the power in the post-modern world
11 and 12:	Chapter 5: Life after Science and Technology Studies
Final exam:	TBA