

STS 1010 CT2 seminar Sect. 2 Spring 2018

TTh 9:30-10:45 AM Brackett 212

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Office Hours: Thursday: 1:30-4:30, and by appt.

Textbooks: Culture and Technology: A Primer, 2nd edition, by Slack and Wise. Other readings from eReserve/online.

Course Overview: Science and technology are social institutions, with their own hierarchical social structures, interacting with each other as well as society at large. It is the purpose of this course to examine the myriad relationships which have arisen between society and the institutions of science and technology. Topics include multitasking, Facebook, online dating, Google, science and tradition, technology and the rewiring of your brain, and our notion of progress.

Critical Thinking (CT²) Integration: This course is a CT² seminar that purposely integrates critical thinking approaches and activities into the course experience. The emphasis of a CT² class is not to memorize facts and regurgitate them on an hour test. The CT² experience is designed to improve your critical thinking skills through an exploration of STS concepts, analysis, synthesis, and the articulation of these ideas at higher levels of abstraction.

Student Outcomes Students will be able to:

- provide details of the inception, development, and reception of scientific ideas and technological innovations by answering factual questions about these matters,
- analyze and critique arguments concerning the function and significance of scientific ideas and technological developments in social contexts, as well as present their analysis and critique in the form of written essays,
- be able to present balanced arguments that offer insights into the underlying assumptions and implications of those assumptions held by differing groups
- adopt a critical thinking approach that will enhance your ability to excel not just in this class, but in other classes as well as your professional and personal life

General Ed requirement: This course meets the *Science and Technology in Society (STS)* general education requirement.

Grading:

Online Quizzes....15%
In-class Assign 10%
Hour Test 1 25%
Hour Test 2 25%
Hour Test 3 25%

Grading scale:

A: 90-100
B: 80-89.9
C: 70-79.9
D: 60-69.9
F: below 60

Attendance policy: Attendance is expected. Any material covered in class and announcements made (including changes in assignments and policy) in class are your responsibility. **If you miss class, you are expected to know what happened.**

Waiting Policy: If the instructor fails to show within 10 minutes of the starting time of the class you are allowed to leave.

Use of Technology in the classroom: This is an issue of trust. Students believe that they should be trusted to use technology appropriately in the classroom. Here are the appropriate uses as defined for this class:

- (a) Computers, tablets, and cell phones are permitted if their use is related to the class.
- (b) Checking email, facebook, playing video games, internet surfing, etc. during class is detrimental to the development of your critical thinking skills and is distracting to your class colleagues.
- (c) It is not acceptable to have your cell phone ring during class.
- (d) Texting during class is considered disrespectful to your instructor.

Readings: As with any class, reading the assigned sections **before** class will enhance your ability to understand the material being presented

Online Quizzes: Taken through BB, they assess your completion of assigned reading and your grasp of basic concepts. **Due before class on date in syllabus. No quiz redos after due date** without doctor's excuse.

In-class Activities: You are required to complete the in-class activity by the end of the class in which they are presented. There is no schedule for these activities, they will come up randomly. You will need a laptop or smartphone to complete these.

Films/videos on schedule: These are to be watched BEFORE class, unless specified in the syllabus. Come prepared to discuss the film and to identify key concepts.

Essays: Being able to effectively articulate the topics being covered in your own words is a valuable word related skill. Essays will be graded on your ability to justify your beliefs referencing applicable ideas from the readings/films and by attributing the correct concepts to the essay question.

Class Participation: Part of your grade depends upon participating in class discussions.

Instructor Evaluations: All students are *strongly urged* to submit an evaluation.

Academic Integrity: All infractions of the University policy on Academic Integrity will be reported to the Dean of Curriculum, in accordance with University regulations. No exceptions. For details, see pp. 28-9 of the Undergraduate Announcements.

It is expected that the readings are completed before the class for which they are assigned.

January

- 10 Introduction to Critical thinking, eReserve: The Four Agreements, p. 1-11
- 15 Slack&Wise: Chapt 1
- 17 Slack&Wise: Chapt 2
- 22 eReserve: Neil Postman, "Technology", p. 36-52, **Quiz on Postman/Technology**
- 24 eReserve: "Wired for Distraction", watch the first 43 minutes of Digital nation: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/digitalnation/view/>, **Quiz on WFD and DN**
- 29 eReserve: "Attached to Technology and Paying a Price", **Quiz on AT&PP**
- 31 eReserve: Carr: "Is Google making me Stupid?", **Quiz on Google/Stupid**

February

- 5 eReserve: “Is Facebook Making me Lonely?”, watch http://www.ted.com/talks/sherry_turkle_alone_together.html, eReserve: “The Scientific Flaws of Online Dating Sites” and “Love in the Age of Like”, **Quiz on Online Dating**
- 7 eReserve: “Thanks for Oversharing” and Postman: “Disappearance of Childhood”, **Quiz on DOC**
- 12 **Hour Test 1**
- 14 eReserve: “Science Scorned”, the Akin Article, “Trust me, I am a scientist”, and “Science can lead the way”,
- 19 eReserve: Volti: Chapt 2, **Quiz on Volti**
- 21 eReserve: Oberdan: Chap 1 and 2, **Quiz on Chap 1 and 2 of Oberdan**
- 26 eReserve: Rosenberg, "Role of Science in the Innovation Process", p. 231-239, **Quiz on Rosenberg**
- 28 eReserve: Oberdan Chap 3 and Chap 4
- March**
- 5 eReserve: Oscar Handlin, "Science and Technology in Popular Culture", **Quiz on Handlin**
- 7 Review
- 12 **Hour Test 2**
- 14 eReserve: Patricia Werhane, "Environmental Sustainability", film: The Story of Stuff: <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>
- 19 Spring Break
- 21 Spring Break
- 26 eReserve: Garrett Hardin: Tragedy of the Commons, in-class video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dD-yN2G5BY0>, **Quiz on Hardin**
- 28 The Role of Ethics, Reading to be announced
- April**
- 2 e-Reserve: “Is Drone war moral?”, watch: Digital Nation: part on Drones
- 4 eReserve: A Short History of Progress (SHOP), Chapt 1, p. 1-14
Film: Surviving Progress, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5N5NLlBaj0>
0-18:50, 25:30-46:00, 43:45-1:00:00
- 9 eReserve: Forward of book “Curious”, eReserve: Jared Diamond, "Collapse", **Quiz on SHOP and Surviving Progress**
- 11 e-Reserve: Pollan, “Omnivores’ Dilemma”, Intro (all); Chapt 1: p. 15-20, 31; Chapt 2: p. 32-47, **Quiz on Pollan OD**
- 16 Film: Food Inc, in-class viewing
- 18 Review
- 23 **Hr Test 3**
- 25 Discussion