

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Science, Technology and Society STAS 325 L02/B02
Technology Within Contemporary Society

Spring 2016

Mon., May 9 – Thurs., June 30 (excluding May 26 – June 5)

Lecture: S 9:00-13:20; Lab: S 13:30-16:20

Instructor: T.A. Pattinson
Office: SS 307
Office Phone: N/A
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Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: F 14:00-16:00 (or by appointment)

Course Description

Examines the definition of technology and major questions concerning the relations between technology and society.

Objectives of the Course

Through lectures, readings, class discussions, and course assignments, students will:

- Be introduced to various social sciences/humanities (SSH) approaches to research when conceiving the relationship between technology and society.
- Explicate how technology and contemporary society provide an opportunity to think about the relationship between SSH and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research approaches.
- Explore a range of theoretical and historical discourses to the study of technology within contemporary society.
- Examine the social, political, and economic effects of technology upon contemporary society.
- Develop critical and analytical skills through the interrogation of various technologies and media.

Textbooks and Readings

Mandatory

Nye, David E. *Technology Matters: Questions to Live With*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 2007. Print.

- Purchasable at UofC Bookstore—\$28.45 new, \$21.35 used via UofC Bookstore.
- Hard copy on reserve at TFDL; electronic copy available via UofC Library Catalogue.

Suggested

Quan-Haase, Anabel. *Technology and Society: Social Networks, Power, and Inequality*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2013. Print.

- Hard copy on reserve at TFDL.

Additional mandatory readings (*) are available online through Desire2Learn (D2L) via MyUofC portal.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others during lectures, screenings, and discussions and switch off all MP3 players, mobile phones, social media, etc., whenever you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving text messages or leaving the class to take calls is disruptive to the entire class and will not be tolerated. Failure to respect these rules may result in the revocation of your privileges to use any internet-electronic devices in the classroom.

Assignments and Evaluation

Written Participation	5%
Oral Participation	10%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Group Project Proposal	10%
Quizzes (4 X 10%)	40%
Group Project Final Report	20%
Group Project Member Evaluations	5%

Written Participation—5% : Due date—ongoing

Every week students will submit written, paragraph-length responses to various discussion questions asked in lecture and/or by the textbook.

Oral Participation—10% : Due date—ongoing

Students are expected to not only be in attendance every week, but to contribute significantly to the class discussions via individual comments, group work activities, and short presentations.

Annotated Bibliography—10% : Due date— May 27th

Students must submit a list of ten (10) academic sources from a variety of resources (books, book chapters, journal articles, etc.) related to the topic of the group project proposal. Academic sources must come from outside the course. Each academic source must include a brief annotation of three-to-five (3-5) lines, written in full sentences, as to its importance for your group project final report. Annotated bibliographies are due by 4 PM and are to be handed in to the instructor during the Friday office hour session. Annotated bibliographies will be returned to students on June 11th.

Group Project Proposal—10% : Due date—June 3rd

In the first lecture, twelve (12) topics will be proposed to students that thematize the ways in which technology and contemporary society can be problematized (e.g. the relationship between technology and capitalism, health, social organization, the environment, etc.). Students are to sign up for one (1) of these topics. There will be no more than five (5) students per topic, who will then constitute the final group who will move forward with the group project proposal.

Each group will submit a five (5) page, double-spaced proposal regarding their group project final report. Group project proposals are due by 4 PM and are to be handed in to the instructor during the Friday office hour session. Group project proposals will be returned to students on June 11th. Group project proposal submissions must include the following:

- one (1) page that rationalizes how and why the topic is important given questions asked in lecture and by the textbook;
- one (1) page that demonstrates a narrowing of focus of the topic around one (1) or (2) specific issues, events, and/or texts of analysis;
- one (1) page that critically evaluates the possible positives of technology vis-à-vis the proposed issues, events, and/or texts;
- one (1) page that critically evaluates the possible negatives of technology vis-à-vis the proposed issues, events, and/or texts;
- one (1) page that proposes a thesis statement about the argument between the possible positive and negatives of technology vis-à-vis the proposed, events, and/or texts (e.g. like a debate with arguments and counter-arguments).

Quizzes—40% (4 X 10%) : Due date—May 21st, June 11th, June 18th, June 25th

Quizzes will test knowledge on content presented in lectures and readings. Quizzes must be taken in class unless documentation is provided for a legitimate absence. Possible testing formats include multiple choice and true or false questions. Students will have thirty (30) minutes to write each quiz as held at the end of lecture.

Group Project Final Report—20% : Due date—June 25th

Students will submit an eight-to-ten (8-10) page, double-spaced final report about their topic. In this report they will briefly explain the relevance of the specific issues, events, and/or texts chosen. Students will contextualize these the possible positives and negatives of issues, events, or texts within a larger history of technology (and related effects upon the social, political, and economic world). Students will then present their findings as a group as to how and why they have evaluated the possible positives or negatives of their chosen issue, event, and/or text within the topic framework (i.e. decide which side wins, or is more persuasive, or more important for society, etc.). Finally, students will briefly consider future issues, events, or texts that may emerge within their topic.

Group project final reports should include a title page and works cited page. Group project final reports should evince additional research done in addition to works used for the annotated bibliography assignment. Final reports must generally follow what was proposed in the preceding group project proposal.

Group Project Member Evaluations—5% : Due date—June 25th

Students will submit a two-to-three page, double-spaced evaluation of group members and themselves. Students will be asked to briefly explain group responsibilities, equality of contributions, and ways in which the work and/or organization of the overall group project could have been improved.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

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. Students will also be required to submit electronic copies of group assignments (i.e. proposals and final reports) to D2L.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. 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 and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

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.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

- Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

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. 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 & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. In this course quizzes, assignments, and other course work will be graded through various means, including using letter grades, percentages, raw point scores, or some combination of these methods. Written participation and group member evaluations will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Oral participation, group project proposals, and group project final reports will be graded using letter grades, percentages, and raw point scores. Quizzes will utilize Scantron forms and will also be graded using letter grades, percentages, and raw point scores.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF 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	0- 49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

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 <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. 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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	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 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds

<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <p>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.</p>
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Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Week 1 (May 14th)

- Nye, Chapters 1-2

Week 2 (May 21st)

- Nye, Chapters 3-5

Week 3 (June 11th)

- Nye, Chapters 6-8

Week 4 (June 18th)

- Nye, Chapters 9-11

Week 5 (June 25th)

- TBD