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(Preferred means of contacting me is through the D2L email system. I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours M-F)

Course Description

In high income societies, more so than in low income societies, most social processes and the functioning of primary social institutions are increasingly being mediated by various forms of technology. Thus ours, more than previous generations, has appropriately been described as "age of technology". Commenting on the centrality of technology in human society over the centuries Habermas (1970:87), argues that "*there is an immanent connection between technology known to us and the structure of purposive-rational action.*" This argument is based in part on the fact that technical implements substitute, supplement, augment and expand what humans have to, and can do. To the extent that it serves such critical functions in helping us to better understand, and sometimes control, our social and natural environments, it may be assumed that technology is very beneficial. This golden view of technology is, however, tempered by the fact the development and deployment of technology are almost exclusively shaped by instrumental rationality. The latter implies that technology in its various manifestations can be socially disruptive, especially with regard to the norms and values infrastructure of society. Can such disruptions have socially "useful" or redeeming qualities? In light of such disruptions and the rapid pace of technological changes should factors other than technical and economic efficiency and efficacy necessarily guide the development and use technologies?

This course examines these critical sociological questions and issues by exploring the social dimensions of technology. This course highlights interactions and interrelationships between the technological and social worlds.

Course Goals:

At the end of the course, students should be able to the following goals:

Goals	Associated Modules
1. Explain how technology has been, and continues to be central to human social evolution	1 and 2
2. Describe how technology is part of both material and non-material culture of society	2 and 3
3. Explain how the development and use of technology is influenced and shaped by social forces and historical contexts	3, 8 and 10
4. Describe transformative effects of technology on societal normative and belief systems	4,5,6,7 and 9

5. Analyze the role of technology in shaping social institutions and the implications of the changes	5,8 and 10
6. Evaluate the evolution of social concerns about technological dependency and explain the rationale for the concerns	6,7,8, 9 and 10

Required Text

- Winston Morton E. and Ralph Edelbach (eds.) 2014, *Society, Ethics, and Technology* Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning

Recommended Texts
- Volti, Rudi 2010. *Society and Technological Change* (7th edition), New York: Worth Publishers

- Andrew McAfee and Erik Brynjolfsson 2014. *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies,* Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc.

Class Format:

This course is taught fully online. Click on the "Content" icon in D2L to get started. The course is broken up into several modules that must be completed during the scheduled days assigned for each module (see course calendar)*.* Modules will consist of textbook readings, PowerPoints, and activities/discussion posts. You can access the information for each module by clicking on the Learning Modules folder on the course home page and then clicking on the specific learning module (in each specific module folder you will see the learning objectives, required readings, and activities, a quiz). In addition to completing the requirements for each module, students must successfully pass the midterm and final exams. All course assignments - quizzes, discussions, and exams are to be completed and/or submitted online.

Note that there are no make-ups for missed assignments. It is always in your best interest to complete your work several hours ahead of the official due date and time so as not to miss a deadline due to something coming up at the last minute. **The assigned readings for each module and the official due dates for discussions, quizzes, and exams are posted in the "Course Calendar", which is also included on the last-but-one page of this syllabus.**

Course Activities:
Course activities will include, but are not limited to:
1. Reading assignments
2. Reviewing PowerPoint summaries
3. Online discussion postings
4. Quizzes
5. Online exams

Course Requirements

1. **Online Discussion Posts (200 points)**: *After completing assigned readings*, students must post scholarly discussions on the D2L discussion board on given topics. You should access each discussion topic within assigned modules. For the post, students should ***use ideas/concepts from the assigned course readings*** to address the discussion post questions. This first post must be submitted by 11:59pm on the due date (**see Course Calendar for due dates**). Although students must base their posts on the ideas/concepts from the assigned readings, the posts must be written in the students' own words (do not copy sentences/paragraphs verbatim from the chapters/PowerPoints).

2. **Quizzes: (300 points)**
After completing all of the assigned readings and reviewing the PowerPoint summaries for each module students will complete a quiz. The quiz will be based on the course content of the modules and associated readings. Quiz dates will be included in the modules

3. **Midterm and Final Exam: (200 for midterm and 300 points for final exam)**
There are two exams for this course and **2 exams make up 500 points or 50% of your final grade**. The exams will be online exams that consist of short answer and essay questions. The exams are due by 11:59 pm on the posted Exam Due Date (**see Course Calendar for dates**). You can access each exam by clicking on the D2L "Assignments" folder at the top of the page. The exams are available early in the morning of the due dates. Students must answer short answer and essay questions using their own words (you cannot copy/quote verbatim from the readings to answer these questions). Do not wait until the last minute to complete the exam. Make-up exams will only be permitted on a very limited basis (i.e., extreme illness/hospitalization during the entire week/day of the exam). To be considered eligible for a make-up exam, the student must provide appropriate documentation to the professor (i.e., a doctor's note).

Grades and Evaluation: Grades for the course will be based on the following:

Discussion Posts	200 points
Quizzes	300 points
Exams	500 points
Total	**1000 points**

Grading Scale
A　　900 and above
B　　80 0– 890
C　　700 – 790
D　　600 – 690
F　　590 and below

Grading:
Grades and feedback for online activities/discussions and exams will be provided within a couple of days. You can view your grades by clicking the "Grades" icon in D2L.

Enrollment Status:
Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Please refer to the official KSU policy for potential reimbursement if you withdraw from classes.

Campus Policies and Procedures
Every student in this course is **required** to go to the following "one stop" link which has been put together by CHSS ODE.   This link will give you access to very important information and answer several questions you may have with respect to KSU policies on cheating, student code of conduct, etc. As well, links for various forms of academic support (advising, writing center, etc.), and other forms of student support (disability services, financial aid, tech support, KSU online, veteran services, etc.) will be found through this link. That link is the following: The One Stop Shop for KSU Policies and Procedures

Course Calendar

Modules	Topic/Item	Assigned Readings	Dates
	Perspectives on Technology	Part One	
1	Course Overview		May 30
2	Historical Perspectives	1.1	May 31 - June 1
3	Social/Political Perspectives	1.2	June 2 – 5
4	Ethical Perspectives	1.3	June 6 – 7
	Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty		June 12
	Contemporary Technology and the Future	Part Two	
5	Security and Surveillance	2.1	June 8 – 9
	MID TERM EXAM		**June 9**
6	Artificial Intelligence and Robotics	2.2	June 12 – 13
7	Nanotechnology	2.3	June 14 – 15
8	Internet and Social Media	2.4	June 16 – 19
9	Biotechnology	2.5	June 20
10	Energy and the Environment	2.6	June 21-22
	FINAL EXAM		**June 23**