STV100 Fall 2008 Syllabus

Dr. Scott M. Campbell

9 September 2008

1 Introduction

1.1 Corrections

- 2008-09-15: Order of tutorial section meeting times corrected

- 2008-09-30: Bonus assignment clarified: only valid for assignments 2 and 3

- 2008-10-10: Corrected email Karl and Wendy's email addresses

1.2 Calendar description

Society, Technology and Values: Introduction

This course examines the interaction of the technologies developed by a culture with the values and social organization of that culture. The course exposes students to various definitions of society, technology and values, and it presents alternative views about how the three interact. These views are then applied to a number of spheres of influence, including patterns of employment and the role of work; medicine and health; polity and economy; sustainable development and the environment.

Credit wight: 0.5

Pre-requisite: None

1.3 Location and Time

Lectures: RCH 309, Tuesday 7-9pm

- Lectures are delivered with the aid of slides, which will be available for students to download from ACE before the lectures.

- The slides do not replace lecture notes; you must be prepared to listen and take effective notes

- Participation and questions from students are encouraged during lectures

Tutorials: RCH 309 & RCH 308, Tuesday 9-10pm

- Tutorial participation relies on having attended the lecture, and completing the reading material in advance.

- Student participation is expected and attendance is recorded.

1.4 Instructor

Dr. Scott Campbell, sm2campb@uwaterloo
http://www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/ sm2campb
Office: E3X 3174 Ext. 35635
Hours: Tuesday 1-3 (or by appointment, please email)

I check email during business hours and will address short questions as quickly as possible, but longer replies may take a day or more. As a general rule, don't expect replies on weekends.

1.5 Teaching Assistant and Markers

Karl Griffiths-Fulton, kgfphoto@yahoo.ca
Office: E3X 3173
Hours: Wednesday 3-4 (or by appointment)

Wendy Stocker, wlstocke@uwaterloo.ca
Office: E3X 3171, x36215

2 Course Details

2.1 Evaluation

The breakdown of grades for the course this term is as follows. See sections 3, 4, and 5 for more information.

Assignments	50%
Test 1	20%
Test 2	20%
Participation	10%

2.2 Website

Please use UW-ACE for access to lecture slides, assignment details and drop boxes, the course readings, a course discussion forum, and other resources.

2.3 Readings

There is no text for this course. Instead, a series of online and physical readings have been assembled and can be accessed via the library and UW-ACE. A reading list is provided on ACE and can be found under *Lessons*, in the *Readings* folder. The list includes a schedule and questions to study before the lectures and tutorials.

There are probably used copies of STV100 course readers floating around from earlier terms, but I don't suggest you buy them. This is not a static course and the readings change regularly.

Approximately one quarter to one third of the test questions will be derived from the readings.

2.4 Policies

2.4.1 Attendance

Attendance will be recorded in the tutorials and will be considered part of your participation grade. If you are sick, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor or your TA as soon as possible and provide a medical note within one week.

2.4.2 Academic integrity

Plagiarism, cheating, copying and other forms of intellectual dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent of the appropriate University of Waterloo Student Academic Discipline Policies. The penalties can be quite severe and ignorance is rarely a good excuse.

Students are advised to consult the new UW academic integrity website http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/index.html for further details about expectations and possible penalties, and to contact the TA or the course instructor for guidance.

All cases of academic misconduct – even minor ones – will be reported to the appropriate academic dean. There are no exceptions to this rule!

2.4.3 Late assignments

All assignments will be penalized 1% from your final overall grade per 24 hour period past the deadline, to a maximum of the assignment value. Consideration may be granted if you contact the instructor before the due date.

There is no buffer or grace period for assignments submitted electronically. Give yourself adequate time to finish and submit.

2.4.4 Exceptions and Extensions

A *University of Waterloo Verification of Illness* form is required within one week if a student is sick and requests an exception.

Any other exceptions to the above policies will require documentation and, wherever possible, considerable warning. Unplanned family emergencies and illness are generally good reasons for an exception; a heavy course load or a failure to plan ahead is not a good reason.

2.4.5 Appeals and regrading

Grades for all assignments and tests can be appealed, using the following process:

1. Talk with the person who graded your work for more information about the grade you received.

2. Submit to the instructor a written justification explaining why you feel your grade is inappropriate.

3. The instructor will regrade the entire assignment or test. The final grade may go up or down.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to *UW Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances*, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm.

Concerning a decision made under *Policy 33 (Ethical Behaviour)*, *Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grieveances)* or *Policy 71 (Student Discipline)*, a student may appeal the finding, the penalty, or both. Students who believe that they have grounds for an appeal should refer to *Policy 72 (Student Appeals)*, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

2.5 Other

2.5.1 Test conflicts

Other instructors occasionally schedule tests during our official class time. In case of such a conflict, the other instructor is required to make alternate test arrangements for students with a conflict. See *University of Waterloo Examination Regulations and Related Matters*, http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf.

Students are expected to notify their instructors of such conflicts as soon as possible.

2.5.2 Students with disabilities

The *Office for Persons with Disabilities* (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if you require academic accommodations.

2.5.3 Gender-fair language

Gender-fair or gender-neutral language should be used for all assignments and tests. That is, don't use "man" to refer to "humans", and don't use "he" to refer to a person unless you know that person is male. You may be penalized for failing to use appropriate terms. To familiarize yourself with gender-fair language, see: http://www.rpi.edu/web/writingcenter/genderfair.html.

2.5.4 Excessive Disruptions

Talking loudly during class or otherwise disrupting the lectures in a way that affects other students will not be tolerated. I discourage the use of laptop computers unless you are taking notes during the lectures; this is not the time for games, email, or chat.

2.5.5 Feedback

I encourage course feedback at all times. Contact me directly, pass a message via the TA, or submit anonymous comments on UW-ACE. Look under the *Lessons* tab for the anonymous feedback drop box. I will attempt to address all concerns as soon as possible.

3 Assignments, 50%

In addition to two test-preparation assignments, there are three writing assignments. They all require you to respond to the course material, think critically, and develop your own ideas. Some

research will be required along the way, although you will be given appropriate limitations and boundaries.

In all cases, further details will be made available in class and on ACE. Also note the bonus assignment, as explained in section 3.5 below.

3.1 Question and Answers, 10%

Due: 6pm Oct 12 and Nov 23, 5% each

There are two Question-and-Answer assignments (Q&A's). By 6pm on the due-date you must submit a short essay question, suitable for the upcoming test, and an appropriate answer (about 250 to 300 words) to ACE.

3.2 Assignment 1, 5%

Due: 6pm Sept 23

The first assignment is a very short one, intended to reinforce course concepts and themes early in the term. It will be based on lecture material and readings, and will require you to discover and identify appropriate examples, and discuss your findings.

3.3 Assignment 2, 15%

Due: 6pm October 21

The second assignment will be longer, and encourage you to think about bias and facts as these relate to technology and society. Again, you will be required to discover and identify appropriate examples, and discuss your findings, with respect to a chosen reading.

3.4 Assignment 3, 20%

Due: 6pm November 11

The final essay assignment is to be the longest, and you should spend about as much time preparing this assignment as you would spend studying for the test. It requires you to think about technological change, and how this relates to obsolescence and progress. In particular, you will be asked to consider if and how we can evaluate or measure change. For this final major assignment, you will have more freedom to develop your own ideas, but you must keep them grounded in course concepts or themes.

3.5 Bonus, 5%

Due: Can be submitted any time until Noon, December 5

A maximum of 5 bonus marks are available for any student who re-submits assignment 2 **or** 3 and includes substantial improvements as suggested by the marker. The student must submit three items on paper directly to the instructor: the original assignment (as originally submitted and marked), the rewritten assignment, and a 100 word abstract explaining what changes have been made and why they address the marker's concerns. Note, only one bonus resubmission will be accepted.

3.6   Assignment notes

- All assignments (with the exception of the bonus) must be submitted electronically to ACE by 6pm on the due date.

- The three written assignments must also be submitted on paper at that evening's lecture

- There is no grace period for assignments. Any assignment which is submitted to ACE past the deadline will be penalized.

- All assignment disputes will be resolved with reference to the electronic copy; for example, the late penalty will apply to the copy submitted to ACE.

3.7   Specifications

- Always include your name, student ID, date, page numbers, and a title (a title page is unnecessary).

- All documents should employ 12-point, Times Roman font, 1" margins, and be double-spaced. This corresponds roughly with 250-300 words per page.

- Include a word count at the end of your assignment. Notes and the bibliography should not be included in the count.

- All assignments must include citations (footnotes, endnotes, or in-text) and a bibliography. References must be consistent and must employ a known citation style.

- Improper citation style, failure to include a bibliography, and references to Wikipedia are all grounds for failing an assignment.

3.8   Writing Assistance and Guidance

A folder on ACE contains a series of documents with advice on writing, tailored for students taking STV courses. I encourage you to read these documents.

Although the other markers and I are primarily interested in your ideas, we are also going to evaluate your ability to express yourself coherently, and we expect proper spelling, grammar, and formatting. We also expect you to defend your ideas with suitable references and evidence, without vast generalizations.

The English Language Proficiency Program also offers help for students who need help. Visit the Writing Centre in the PAS building http://elpp.uwaterloo.ca/writingcentre.html. They are not a proofreading service, but will help all undergraduates with their writing.

4   Tests, 40%

Oct 14 and Nov 25, 20% each

There will be two in-class midterm-type tests, worth 20% each. Each will be two hours, with short answers, paragraph-length questions and essays. The tests are closed-book, and non-accumulative.

Further details will be made available in class and on ACE, where a sample of the *type* of questions will be posted.

5   Participation, 10%

One of the overall goals for this course is to learn to appreciate technology from the perspective of others. As such, students will get a chance to share responses to the course material with other students. To encourage this, three student activities will be recorded: tutorial attendance, use of the discussion board on ACE, and timely completion of course surveys on ACE, all of which will be used to generate a participation grade.

Students who attend all their scheduled tutorials, complete all course surveys on time, and post at least one useful, interesting or insightful comment or link to the discussion board will receive the full 10% for their participation grade.

5.1   Tutorials

The class will be randomly divided into tutorial sections of approximately 20 students. Tutorials occur after the main lecture, generally at 9pm, and each section will meet four times as indicated on the schedule: the first two sections will meet before the first midterm, and the latter two sections will meet after the midterm. The tutorials are led by the instructor and the TA.

All tutorial students are expected to be ready to discuss and debate the current week's reading. Of course, discussion is not just talking, it also requires listening and thinking. Your instructor or TA will moderate the discussion, as well as address questions, but the purpose of these sessions is for students to engage actively with the course material.

5.2   Discussion Board

Look on ACE for the discussion board under the *Lessons* tab. It is there for students to discuss the course material, post links to interesting events or items in the news, or ask administrative questions.

5.3   Surveys

Each week, a survey will be posted to ACE, and students are expected to respond in a timely and honest fashion. The instructor will collate the answers for discussion at the following lecture.

6 Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Event or Deadline	Lecture Topic	Tutorial
Sept. 9		0. Welcome	
Sept. 16		1. What is technology	1,2
Sept. 23	Due: Assignment 1	2. Technology and Work	1,2
Sept. 30		3. Technological Transfer	1,2
Oct. 7		4. Control and Bias	1,2
Oct. 12	Q&A 1 due		
Oct. 14	Test 1		
Oct. 21	Due: Assignment 2	5. Technological Systems and *Connections*	3,4
Oct. 28		6. Ethics and the Digital Divide	3,4
Nov. 4		7. Technology and War	3,4
Nov. 11	Due: Assignment 3	8. Technological Obsolescence	3,4
Nov. 18		9. Technological Progress	Reserved
Nov. 23	Q&A 2 due		
Nov. 25	Test 2		
Dec. 5	Final deadline for bonus: Noon		

Some lectures may run long, and tutorials may be cancelled, so students should not schedule other activities during the 7-10pm block, regardless of which tutorial they are in.

Final grades will be uploaded to Quest when the marking is completed – please don't ask when, it is impossible to predict. Also note that final grades will be rounded by ACE and Quest using a round-to-even method, which is more fair statistically, but perhaps not what all students are used to.

See http://www.quest.uwaterloo.ca/undergraduate/dates.html for more information regarding university dates for drop deadlines and related penalties.