

STV100 Fall 2009 Syllabus

Dr. Scott M. Campbell

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Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Course Details	2
3 Assignments, 40%	6
4 Tests, 50%	8
5 Participation, 10%	8
6 Schedule (Tentative)	9

1 Introduction

1.1 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 weight: 0.5

Pre-requisite: None

1.2 Location and Time

Lectures: RCH 305 Tuesday 7-10pm

- Lectures are delivered with the aid of slides, which will be available for students to download from UW-ACE before the lectures.
- The slides do not replace lecture notes; you must be prepared to listen and take additional and effective notes
- Participation and questions from students are encouraged during lectures

Tutorials: Location TBA, in class Tuesday approximately 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.

1.3 Instructor

Dr. Scott Campbell, sm2campb@uwaterloo

<http://cstv.uwaterloo.ca/people/campbell.html>

Office: E3X 3174 Ext. 35635

Hours: Tuesday 1-3pm (or by appointment, please phone or email)

I check email during regular 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.

1.4 Teaching Assistant and Markers

Karl Griffiths-Fulton, kgfwork@gmail.com

Office: E3X 3171

Hours: Thursday 9:30-11:30am

Wendy Stocker, wlstocke@uwaterloo.ca

Office: E3X 3171, x36215

Hours: By appointment, phone or email

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	40%
Test 1	25%
Test 2	25%
Participation	10%

2.2 Website

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

2.3 Readings

Each lecture is accompanied by a set of readings and associated study questions. The schedule and questions can be found in the Reading List on ACE, under *Lessons*. There are two sets of readings: required and supplementary.

Each lecture is accompanied by a set of required readings, associated study questions and supplementary and optional readings. This document contains the schedule of readings and may be updated with additional readings or study questions.

With one exception, all of the required readings for this course are in the STV100 courseware package available at the bookstore. The required readings are intended to be done before the associated lecture and should take about 1 to 2 hours per week. You should read each carefully, consider the study questions, and be prepared to discuss them in class. Page references in the study questions refer to the internal page number of the book chapter, and not the page numbering of the STV100 reader. The required readings are also directly testable: approximately one quarter to one third of the test questions will be derived from the primary readings.

Most of the optional readings are online (some via the library), although some were added to the courseware, for student convenience, and some are only available in books or journals offline. The optional readings are supplementary: they are intended to fill in gaps, go a little deeper, or provide alternative views. They are not testable but may be used as suitable source material for tutorial discussions or assignments. If you have time, you should try to read them.

Used copies of STV100 course readers are likely available, but you should carefully compare the contents with this term's required readings. In general, this is not a static course and the readings change regularly. This is not a ploy (I don't make any money from the readings) but is a consequence of dynamic course that is constantly evolving to suit both students and instructor.

2.4 University Policies

The following sections are University Policies that apply to every undergraduate course at the University of Waterloo and must appear on a syllabus.

2.4.1 Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.

2.4.2 Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity (check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Note that all cases of academic misconduct – even minor mistakes or apparently trivial cases – must be reported to the appropriate academic dean. There are no exceptions to this rule!

2.4.3 Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

2.4.4 Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

2.4.5 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 Course Policies

The following are specific STV100 course policies.

2.5.1 Attendance

Attendance will be recorded in the tutorials and will be considered part of your participation grade. For exceptions see 2.5.7.

2.5.2 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. This includes weekends, as all assignments can be submitted online. Consideration may be granted if you contact the instructor for an exception *before* the due date (see 2.5.7).

There is no buffer or grace period for assignments submitted electronically. Give yourself adequate time to finish and submit. Even if you submit a paper copy on the due date, if your electronic submission is late you will still be penalized.

2.5.3 Group work

In the case of individual assignments, I expect students to develop their own ideas in their research and writing, but also encourage them to approach their colleagues, friends or family to discuss their ideas or help proofread essay drafts.

2.5.4 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 new grade may be higher or lower than the original, and will be considered final.

2.5.5 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.

2.5.6 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>.

2.5.7 Exceptions and Extensions

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

All exceptions to the course policies require documentation and, wherever possible, advance notice. Unplanned family emergencies and illnesses are generally good reasons for an exception; a heavy course load or a failure to plan ahead is not a good reason.

2.5.8 Excessive Disruptions and Laptop computers

Lectures are not the ideal time for talking loudly, playing games, writing email, or reading newspapers. Disrupting the lectures in a way that affects other students will not be tolerated.

I discourage the use of laptop computers unless you are only taking notes during the lectures. If you are playing games or surfing the web it can be very distracting for students around you. I strongly suggest that laptop users try to use the last few rows of the room to avoid this problem.

2.5.9 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, 40%

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, although you will be given appropriate limitations and boundaries.

In all cases, complete instructions and a rubric will be made available in class and on ACE.

3.1 Assignment 1, 5%

Deadline: 6pm October 6

The first assignment is a very short one, intended to reinforce crucial 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.

3.2 Assignment 2, 15%

Due: 6pm October 27

The second assignment is longer, and encourages students to think about bias, facts and perspectives as these relate to technology and society. Again, you will be required to discover and identify appropriate examples, and discuss your findings.

3.3 Assignment 3, 20%

Due: 6pm November 17

The final essay assignment requires you to think about technological change, and how this relates to social progress. 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 and additional research.

3.4 Assignment 2 or 3 resubmission

Due: Noon, December 9

Any student who submits assignment 2 or 3 and gets a grade below that assignment's average can resubmit the assignment with substantial improvements, including those suggested by the marker. The new grade for the resubmitted assignment cannot exceed the average for that particular assignment.

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 short abstract (about 100 words) explaining what changes have been made and why they address the marker's concerns.

Please note that only one of the two assignments can be resubmitted, not both, and any late penalty applied to the original submission will also be reapplied. Also, the initial submission must

represent a reasonable attempt to meet the expectations of the assignment; students cannot submit an document empty of content (or one that is corrupt) in the hopes of matching the average on resubmission.

3.5 Notes for all assignments

- All assignments are to be submitted electronically and on paper on the same day.
 - The electronic submissions are due by 6pm on ACE. If a student has lost access to ACE, to avoid a late penalty they must submit an electronic copy directly to the instructor by 6pm via email.
 - The paper submissions are due by 7pm in class. Late submissions can be delivered to the instructor's office, E3X Rm 3174.
- Failure to meet either the electronic or the paper deadline will result in a late penalty.
- All assignment disputes (i.e.: plagiarism, regrading, etc) will be resolved with the electronic copy.
- The Turnitin plagiarism detection service will *not* be used in STV100 this term.

3.6 Assignment Specifications

- Always include your name, student ID, date, page numbers, and a title; title pages, folders, duo-tangs are unnecessary
- All documents should use a 12-point Times Roman font, 1" margins, and double-spaced text. 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 in the text (footnotes, endnotes, or in-text), especially when directly quoting a source, as well as a bibliography. References must be consistent and must employ a known citation style.
- Improper citation style, failure to include a bibliography, and inappropriate references to Wikipedia are all grounds for penalty.

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

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, 50%

See the schedule below in section 6.

There will be two in-class midterm-type tests, worth 25% each. Each will be two hours, with questions that expect short, single word answers, longer paragraph-length answers and multi-page essays. The tests are closed-book and non-accumulative with respect to each half of the course. That is, the second test deals almost exclusively with material from the second half of the course.

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 participation 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.

The breakdown is approximately one third for tutorial attendance, one third for completion of all course surveys on time, and one third for contributions to the discussion forum.

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 about the course material, but the purpose of these sessions is for students to engage actively with the course material and other students.

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 and readings, post links to interesting events or items in the news, or ask administrative questions. I expect every student to post to the board at least once during the term.

I suggest you use the subscription function, to avoid missing any useful messages. I will contribute regularly and monitor the board.

5.3 Surveys

Most weeks, immediately following the lecture a survey will be posted to ACE, asking questions related to the upcoming lecture. Students are expected to respond in a timely and honest fashion. The instructor will collate the answers for discussion at the following lecture.

Please note that the surveys are not anonymous to the instructor. Students who abuse the surveys with irrelevant or joke answers will forfeit this portion of their participation grade.

6 Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Deadline	Lecture Topic	Tutorial
Sept 15		0. Welcome	
Sept 22		1. What is technology	1,2
Sept 29		2. Determinism and Shaping	1,2
Oct 6	6pm Assignment 1 (5%)	3. Technological Transfer	1,2
Oct 13		4. Digital Divide and Wikipedia	1,2
Oct 20	Test 1 (25%)		
Oct 27	6pm: Assignment 2 (15%)	5. Technological Systems	3,4
Nov 3		6. Control and Ethics	3,4
Nov 10		7. Technology and War	3,4
Nov 17	6pm: Assignment 3 (20%)	8. Technological Obsolescence	3,4
Nov 24		9. Technological Progress	Reserved
Dec 1	Test 2 (25%)		
Dec 9	Noon: Resubmission deadline		

Typically lectures are scheduled to run 7-9pm and, and tutorials from 9-10pm. Occasionally lectures run past 9pm or tutorials may be rescheduled, so students should not schedule other activities during the 9-10pm block, regardless of which tutorial they are in.

Final grades will be uploaded to Quest when the marking is complete – 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.