STV100 Fall 2012 Syllabus

Dr. Scott M. Campbell

11 September 2012

Contents

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 112 Tuesday 7-9:50pm

- Lectures are delivered with the aid of slides which will be available for students to download from the course website before the lectures. Slides do not replace lecture notes; students must be prepared to attend and take notes.

- Attendance is not mandatory but in-class assignments and other activities will take place regularly; failure to participate will forfeit grades.

1.3 Instructor

Dr. Scott Campbell, scott.campbell@uwaterloo.ca
http://cstv.uwaterloo.ca/people/campbell.html
Office: E3X 3174 Ext. 35635
Hours: Tuesday 12-2pm (or by appointment, please phone or email)

1.3.1 Electronic communication policy

I will reply to all student email within two days, not including evenings or on weekends. To encourage a quick response, consult the checklist:

Email checklist

◯ Did you read the syllabus, the assignment instructions, or related documents on the website to see if I've already addressed your question?

◯ Did you consider if visiting during office hours or phoning my office would be a better use of everyone's time?
> *Answering questions via email can take much longer than an oral conversation.*

◯ Did you write your email from your UW account, and did you include the course number in the subject?
> *This helps professors identify students faster and your email is less likely to be rejected as spam.*

◯ Are your questions or requests direct and specific, such as "What room is the test" or "I need help with the examples from the previous lecture"?
> *If your needs are more vague or unclear, consider visiting my office or asking for help after class.*

◯ Did you choose an appropriate greeting, such as Dr., Instructor, Prof., or even Mr.?
> *This is polite and much preferred to "Hey" or no greeting at all*

◯ Did you proofread your email to eliminate spelling mistakes, poor punctuation and inappropriate language?
> *Internet slang such as LOL or smileys are unprofessional; asking for an answer "right away" or "as soon as possible" is presumptuous and disrespectful of my time.*

1.4 Teaching Assistants

Karl Griffiths-Fulton, kgfwork@gmail.com
Office: E3X 3171 x36215
Hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:30am

Wendy Stocker, wlstocke@uwaterloo.ca
Office: E3X 3171, x36215
Hours: By appointment, phone or email

2   Course Details

2.1   Website

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

2.2   Textbook and readings

The required course textbook is: **Nye, David.** ***Technology Matters: Questions to Live With.* Cambridge Mass.: MIT Press, 2006**. It is available in the UW bookstore for about $18; used copies from previous terms may be available. Resourceful students may have already discovered that an ebook version is available, and indeed can be found online in the UW Library. However, electronic devices are prohibited for the two open-book tests.

Occasionally, readings will be assigned from other electronic sources. Links to the material will be placed on Learn.

A reading schedule with study questions and occasional supplementary readings will be posted to the course website each week. A tentative reading schedule can be seen below (see 4).

2.3   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.

2.3.1   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.

2.3.2   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!

2.3.3 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.

2.3.4 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.

2.3.5 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.

2.4 Course Policies

The following policies are specific to this course.

2.4.1 Late assignments

All assignments submitted late will be penalized 1% of the overall course grade per 24 hour period (including weekends) past the deadline to a maximum of the assignment value. The penalty will be subtracted from the assignment.

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

2.4.2 Exceptions and Extensions

Students who are ill must make contact with the instructor as soon as possible, and must supply a *University of Waterloo Verification of Illness* form within one week of a missed deadline to obtain an extension.

All exceptions to the course policies require similar documentation and, wherever possible, advance notice. Family emergencies and illnesses are generally good reasons for an exception; heavy course loads or a failure to plan ahead or allocate enough time to this course are never good reasons.

2.4.3 Groups vs individual work

For any group work in this course I expect effective and considerate collaboration and cooperation. All group members share the same grade, and the same penalties. Contact the instructor or TA immediately if there are difficulties.

For individual assignments students are required to develop their own ideas, do their own research and write their own assignments. However, they are also encouraged to approach their classmates, colleagues, friends, or family to discuss their ideas or get help proofreading essay drafts. Of course, this can go too far and students who collaborate excessively on individual assignments will be charged with academic dishonesty.

2.4.4 Regrading

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

1. After an assignment or test is returned, if you need a quick explanation or there appears to be a miscalculation, then students should approach the instructor or TA for help. Otherwise, a 24-hour cooling off period is required before grades can be questioned, appealed or altered.

2. Students should discuss their assignment or test directly with the person who graded their work for more information about the grade or possible misunderstandings about expectations. The grade may be changed at this point.

3. If unsatisfied, a student should submit to the instructor a written justification explaining why the grade is inappropriate *and* how the student would address the marker's criticisms.

4. 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. Further regrading will take place only if the student files an official appeal (see above).

2.4.5 Test conflicts

As this is a night course, other instructors may schedule midterm tests that conflict with the official and scheduled class time of STV 100. No student can be asked to miss one official class activity for another and since the other instructor created the problem he or she is obligated to provide a solution with an alternate test arrangement. See *University of Waterloo Examination Regulations and Related Matters* or `http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf`.

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

2.4.6 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"; don't use "he" to refer to a person unless you know that person is male, and so on. You may be penalized for failing to use appropriate terms. To familiarize yourself with gender-fair language, see: `http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/genderfairuseoflang`.

2.4.7 Excessive disruptions, mobile phones and portable computers

Lectures are not the appropriate time for talking loudly, playing games, emailing, social networking websites, or watching television or movies. Using portable electronic devices for anything other than taking notes can be very distracting for students around you, and disrupting lectures in a way that affects others will not be tolerated.

I discourage portable computers unless you are actively taking notes during the lectures or otherwise using them appropriately. I strongly suggest that all laptop users avoid the front rows and move to the back of the room.

Arriving late to class also disrupts the class. If you cannot arrive on time, please enter via the rear door and take a seat at the back.

2.4.8 Feedback

I encourage course feedback at all times. Contact me directly, pass a message via the TA, or submit feedback to the Anonymous Feedback Survey on the website. I will attempt to address all concerns as soon as possible.

3 Evaluation

The breakdown of grades for the course this term is as follows. See the following sections for further details.

Assignments	30%
Workshops	10%
Tests	50%
Participation	10%

3.1 Workshops, 10%

There are two in-class group workshops, each worth 5%. Each group must submit a report by the end of the workshop evening. Further instructions will be distributed the night of the workshop. Failure to attend the workshop will forfeit the grade. See the schedule below.

The workshops are intended to give students some unconventional hands-on activities relevant to the course and to encourage discussion and co-learning among group members.

3.2 Assignments, 30%

There are three short written assignments, each worth 10%. These are to be completed individually, and within one week. Further instructions will be distributed at the appropriate time. See the schedule of deadlines below.

The assignments are short written essays or reports, submitted electronically, responding to specific questions, applying knowledge from the lectures and the textbook. Analysis and some research may be necessary to complete each assignment.

3.2.1 Notes for all assignments

Unclaimed assignments (and tests) will be retained for one year. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with Waterloo's confidential shredding procedures.

If a student has lost access to the course website, to avoid a late penalty he or she must submit an electronic copy directly via email to the instructor by the relevant deadline.

3.2.2 Writing Assistance and Guidance

A series of documents with advice on writing, tailored for students taking STV and STV-like courses, will be uploaded to the course website for students to browse.

Although in this course assignments are primarily about a student's ideas, some of the evaluation is of the student's ability to express himself or herself coherently. Proper spelling, grammar, and formatting are expected. Students are also expected to defend their ideas with suitable references and evidence, without vast generalizations or factual or historical inaccuracies.

If students have writing concerns, they should contact the instructor or TA for help and do so as early as possible. Students can request that the instructor or TA review a draft of the assignment, however: 1) the draft must be complete, with all references; 2) students must be prepared to meet with the instructor or TA to discuss the draft; and 3) the draft will be due at least a few days before the assignment deadline, to ensure sufficient time to review it.

The *English Language Proficiency Program* also offers help for students who need help. See `https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre/`. This is not a proofreading service, but they will help undergraduates with planning and executing writing assignments.

3.2.3 Use of Turnitin

Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) may be used to screen certain assignments in this course. This will be done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Students who prefer not to use Turnitin must meet with the instructor at least five days before the relevant assignment deadline to discuss alternatives. Suggested alternatives include submitting one or more of the following in advance: an annotated bibliography or a multi-page outline or draft.

3.3 Tests, 50%

There will be two in-class midterm-type tests, worth 25% each. Each will be two hours. The tests are open-book. The first test deals exclusively with material covered during the preceding lectures, and the second test deals nearly exclusively with material from the second half of the course. It is expected that students will still be familiar with any broad course-wide concepts.

Further details will be made available in class and on the course website. See the schedule below.

3.4 Participation, 10%

One of the overall goals for this course is to learn to appreciate society, technology and values from the perspective of others. As such, students are encouraged to contribute to the course. Three

activities will be graded out of 5, but for the final participation grade, the lowest of the three grades will be dropped for a total of 10%.

3.4.1 Simple Summaries, 5%

At some point during each weekly lecture, students will be assigned a short written activity, typically geared towards a summary or review of the lecture or readings. Students will have a few minutes to complete the activity and will submit their work on paper immediately. The goal is to encourage active reflection, quick and clear writing, and paying attention to key course concepts.

Every submission will be read by the instructor, but they will not be graded beyond whether or not the question was addressed appropriately. That means lazy, inarticulate, unreadable, substantially incorrect or irrelevant, or overly collaborative summaries will be rejected. The final Simple Summary grade will be proportional to the quantity of valid summaries successfully submitted.

Students who miss a particular class will forfeit the opportunity to complete that week's summary and the accompanying grade. This includes students who sign in to the course after the first week.

3.4.2 Quizzes (also known as 'Surveys'), 5%

Each week (except the week of the tests) a short quiz relevant to the upcoming lecture will be posted to the website. Essentially, these are surveys of pre-lecture student knowledge and bias, and **are not graded**. Instead, The instructor will collate the answers for presentation and discussion in the next lecture. Students are expected to respond in a timely and honest fashion and their final Quiz grade will be proportional to the quantity completed.

Please note that these are not anonymous to the instructor and inappropriate answers will be rejected. Quizzes cannot be completed "late": once a lecture begins at 7pm, the relevant quiz is closed.

3.4.3 Discussion forum, 5%

Finally, there is a discussion forum on the course website. Students are expected to use it to ask questions or discuss the course material and readings, post links to interesting events or websites, or ask administrative questions. The instructor will monitor the board and contribute regularly. It is suggested that students use the subscription function, to avoid missing messages.

Students will receive a grade proportional to the quality and quantity of their posting history. Timing is relevant: flooding the discussion forum at the end of the course is inappropriate and will not be rewarded. Postings made after the second test will not count towards the participation grade. Merely *reading* the forum does not count as participation.

As a rough guideline, at least five substantial posts that are relevant (dealing with material similar to recent readings, lectures or other student discussions) are required for full marks, although each post will be read and evaluated for quality and some posts count more than others. Students with additional concerns about their discussion forum grade should speak to the instructor early in the course about expectations. Students can also request an unofficial assessment of their participation grade at any point.

4 Schedule

Please note that the following schedule of lectures and readings is tentative and may change; **the tests, workshops, and assignment deadline dates are firm**.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Event / Deadline
1	Sept. 11	Welcome		
2	Sept. 18	What is Technology?	Nye, Ch 1	
3	Sept. 25	Stories and Artifacts		Workshop 1 (5%)
4	Oct. 2	Understanding "Things"	Nye, Ch 5	
5	Oct. 9	Values and Landscapes	Nye, Ch 6	Assignment 1 (10%)
6	Oct. 16			Test 1 (25%)
7	Oct. 23	Technological Determinism	Nye, Ch 2 & 3	
8	Oct. 30	Optimists and Pessimists	Nye, p. 149-159	Workshop 2 (5%)
9	Nov. 6	Alternative Understandings	Nye, Ch 4	Assignment 2 (10%)
10	Nov. 13	Technology and Work	Nye, Ch 7	
11	Nov. 20	Technology and Progress	Nye, Ch 11	Assignment 3 (10%)
12	Nov. 27			Test 2 (25%)

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

4.1 Final grades

Final grades submitted to the Registrar are not curved or modified in any way, although they will be rounded to whole integers.