

STV100 Spring 2009 Syllabus

Dr. Scott M. Campbell

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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 wight: 0.5

Pre-requisite: None

1.2 Location and Time

Lectures: RCH 112, 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 additional and effective notes
- Participation and questions from students are encouraged during lectures

Tutorials: Location TBA, 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.

1.3 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.

1.4 Teaching Assistant and Markers

Karl Griffiths-Fulton, kgfwork@gmail.com
Office: E3X 3173
Hours: Wednesday 2-4 (or by appointment)

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

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 details and drop boxes, the course readings, 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: primary and supplementary.

The primary readings can be found in the course reader, available at the UW Bookstore. These readings are required and should average 1 to 2 hours per week. You should read each carefully, consider the questions in the reading list, and be prepared to discuss them in class and the tutorial. They are also directly testable: approximately one quarter to one third of the test questions will be derived from the primary readings.

Links to the supplementary readings will be posted to ACE. These are not required, so I'm not making you pay for them. 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 any written work you submit this term. If you have time, you should try to read them.

There are probably used copies of STV100 course readers floating around from earlier terms, but unless you can pick it up for a few dollars I don't suggest buying one because it will be different. This is not a static course and the readings change regularly from term to term. This is not some ploy – I don't make any money from the readings – but is a consequence of dynamic course that is constantly evolving.

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

I do encourage students to discuss their ideas with their colleagues, friends or family, or to get the same people to help proofread their writing. However, plagiarism, copying and other similar 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 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 trivial or seemingly 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. This includes weekends, as all assignments can be submitted online. Consideration may be granted if you contact the instructor before the due date (see the next subsection)

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

2.4.4 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.

Any other exceptions to the above policies will require documentation and, wherever possible, a week's warning. 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.

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

Students who still 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 Grievances)* 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

Lectures are not the 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 taking notes during the lectures. Please use the last few rows of the room if you cannot otherwise maintain the appropriate decorum.

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, 40%

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.

3.1 Assignment 1, 5%

Due: 6pm May 26

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.

3.2 Assignment 2, 15%

Due: 6pm June 23

The second assignment will be longer, and encourage you 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, with respect to a chosen reading.

3.3 Assignment 3, 20%

Due: 6pm July 14

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. 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 Resubmission

Due: Noon, August 3

Any student who gets a grade below average on assignment 2 or 3 can resubmit their assignment if it includes substantial improvements, as suggested by the marker. The new grade for the resubmitted assignment will be capped and 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.

3.5 Assignment notes

- All assignments must be submitted electronically to ACE by 6pm on the due date; see above for late penalties and exceptions.
- The three written assignments must also be submitted on paper at that evening's lecture. Resubmissions should be submitted directly to the instructor; slide it under my door if I am not available.
- 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. Remarketing will apply to the electronic copy; any issues regarding academic integrity will be settled via the electronic copy.

3.6 Specifications

- Always include your name, student ID, date, page numbers, and a title; title pages, folders, duo-tangs are 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 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 a poor grade or even failing an assignment.

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 TAs 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, 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 short answers, paragraph-length questions and 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 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 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, a survey will be posted to ACE on Tuesdays. These surveys are about the upcoming lecture, 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	Deadline	Lecture Topic	Tutorial
May 5		0. Welcome	
May 12		1. What is technology	Reserved
May 19		2. Determinism and Shaping	1,2
May 26	6pm Assignment 1 (5%)	3. Technology and Work	1,2
June 2		4. Technological Transfer	1,2
June 9		5. Digital Divide and Wikipedia	1,2
June 16	Test 1 (25%)		
June 23	6pm: Assignment 2 (15%)	6. Technological Systems	3,4
June 30		7. Control and Ethics	3,4
July 7		8. Technology and War	3,4
July 14	6pm: Assignment 3 (20%)	9. Technological Obsolescence	3,4
July 21		10. Technological Progress	Reserved
July 28	Test 2 (25%)		
Aug. 3	Noon: Resubmission deadline		

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.