

STV100 Spring 2010 Syllabus

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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 weight: 0.5

Pre-requisite: None

1.2 Location and Time

Lectures: RCH 112 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. Slides do not replace lecture notes; students must be prepared to listen and take additional and effective notes
- Attendance is not mandatory but in-class assignments and other activities will take place regularly; failure to participate will forfeit grades. Questions and discussion with students during lectures is encouraged

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)

1.3.1 Electronic communication policy

I will reply to student email as soon as possible, but students should not expect a reply (or email me again) before 48 hours have passed. Nor should they expect a reply on weekends or evenings. I will prioritize my attention in favour of students who make use of the following advice:

- Write from your UW or UW-ACE account; it helps me identify students faster and is less likely to be dumped as spam
- Include the course number in your subject line (I teach many different STV courses), and a helpful subject line
- Choose an appropriate greeting (“Dr.” or “Prof.”, not “Hey”), be polite, and proofread what you’ve written

1.4 Teaching Assistant and Markers

Karl Griffiths-Fulton, kgfwork@gmail.com

Office: E3X 3171

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 Evaluation

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

Perspective Project	25%
Progress Project	25%
Test 1	20%
Test 2	20%
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 from time to time with additional readings or study questions.

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.

The optional readings are supplementary: they are intended to fill in gaps, go a little deeper, or provide alternative views. They are not testable. Many of the optional readings are online (some via the library), although some were added to the courseware package for student convenience and some are only available offline in books or journals. 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. This is not a static course and the readings change occasionally. 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 policies specific to this course.

2.5.1 Late assignments

All assignments submitted late 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 for any assignments that is submitted electronically. Consideration may be granted if you contact the instructor for an exception *before* the due date (see 2.5.6).

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

2.5.2 Group work

For the group projects in this course effective collaboration and cooperation is expected. For individual assignments students are expected to develop their own ideas in their research and writing, but also are encouraged to approach their colleagues, friends or family to discuss their ideas or for help proofreading assignment drafts. See section 3 for more information about the assignments.

2.5.3 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 *and* how you would address the marker's criticisms
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.

2.5.4 Test conflicts

Because this is a night course 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.

2.5.5 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>.

2.5.6 Exceptions and Extensions

Student who are ill must contact the instructor within 48 hours of a missed deadline. A *University of Waterloo Verification of Illness* form is required within one week of a deadline.

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 or allocate enough time to this course is never a good reason.

2.5.7 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 use the rows at the rear of the room to avoid this problem.

2.5.8 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%

There are two major assignments this course, designed to encourage students to respond to the course material, think critically, and develop their own ideas and to work well in interdisciplinary groups. Some research will be required, although you will be given appropriate limitations and boundaries. In all cases, complete instructions and/or a rubric will be made available in class and on ACE.

3.1 Perspective Project, 25% + peer review bonus

One of two important lessons in this course is to be open to other perspectives; the Perspective Project is designed to reinforce this lesson. The group project is broken into several parts. The first two take place largely in-class, although some advance preparation is required; the final part requires a written report. A brief overview of these parts follows; further details will be provided in class.

Part 1: Evolution vs Revolution, 5%

Deadline: May 18, 10pm in-class

As individuals, students will locate examples of evolutionary and revolutionary perspectives. In class as a group they will compare and evaluate their examples, and submit a brief analysis.

Part 2: Determinism vs Social Shaping, 5%

Deadline: May 25, 10pm in-class

Building on the first component, as individuals students will locate examples of deterministic and social shaping perspectives. In class as a group they will compare and evaluate their examples, and submit a brief analysis.

Part 3: Digital Technology Review, 15%

Deadline: June 15, 6pm on ACE

The final component involves reading, research, and a written submission reviewing multiple perspectives regarding a particular digital technology.

Peer review bonus, $\pm 3\%$

Students will be given an opportunity to peer review their project group members. Students who receive positive evaluations from their peers will receive a bonus; conversely, students who receive negative evaluations from their peers will be penalized. The peer review bonus may not elevate a final grade beyond 100% for the course. Further details regarding the peer review will be provided.

3.2 Progress project, 25%

The second of two important lessons in this course is to consider the relationship between technology and society and to appreciate the difficulty assessing what “makes things better”. This project is designed to tackle the issue of how we solve technological and social problems. Again, it is broken into parts. Students must prepare for several in-class exercises, and then write a final essay

summarizing their insights and discoveries. A brief overview of these parts follows; further details will be provided in class.

3.2.1 Part 1, Social progress, 5%

Deadline: June 22, 10pm in-class

As individuals, students will conduct research as to the meaning of social progress. In class, they must defend their research to their peers and submit a brief report.

3.2.2 Part 2, Technological progress, 5%

Deadline: June 29, 10pm in-class

Building on the first component, as individuals student will conduct research as to the meaning of technological progress. In class they must defend their research to their peers and submit a brief report.

3.2.3 Part 3, Essay, 15%

Deadline: July 13, 6pm on ACE

For the final component, students must bring together what they have learned about progress with an essay that address the relationship between technology and society.

3.3 Notes for all assignments

- 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. Students must also submit a paper copy by 7pm in class. Late paper 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.

3.4 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, 40%

See the schedule below in section 6.

There will be two in-class midterm-type tests, worth 20% each. Each will be two hours. The tests are closed-book and non-accumulative with respect to each half of the course. That is, the first test deals exclusively with material covered during all the of the preceding lectures, and the second test deals almost exclusively with material from the second half of the course (however it is expected that for the second test students will still be familiar with broad course-wide concepts such as determinism and social shaping).

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 society, technology and values from the perspective of others. As such, students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives via weekly surveys, and to discuss the course on the discussion forum on UW-ACE.

Most weeks a survey relevant to the upcoming lecture will be posted to UW-ACE. Students are expected to respond in a timely and honest fashion, and will receive a grade proportional to the number of surveys completed.

The instructor will collate the survey responses 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. Also note that surveys cannot be completed “late”: once a lecture begins, the relevant survey is closed.

There is also a discussion forum for this course on UW-ACE. 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 any useful messages. Students will receive a grade proportional to the quality and quantity of their posting history. Please note that participation on the discussion forum will be evaluated only up to the point of the test; postings made after the test will not count towards the participation grade.

6 Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Lecture Topic	Activity or Deadline
May 4	0. Welcome	
May 11	1. What is technology	Perspective Project intro.
May 18	2. Determinism and Shaping	Persp. Prj. 1 (5%)
May 25	3. Technological Transfer	Persp. Prj. 2 (5%)
June 1	4. Digital Divide and Wikipedia	Review discussion
June 8		Test 1 (20%)
June 15	5. Technological Systems	Persp. Prj. 3 (15%)/Progress Prj. Intro
June 22	6. Control and Ethics	Progress Prj. 1 (5%)
June 29	7. Technology and War	Progress Prj. 2 (5%)
July 6	8. Technological Obsolescence	Progress discussion
July 13	9. Technological Progress	Progress Prj 3 (15%)
July 20		Test 2 (20%)

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

6.1 Final grades

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.