# STV100 Winter 2011 Syllabus

### Dr. Scott M. Campbell

### 4 January 2011

## 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 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. Slides do not replace lecture notes; students must be prepared to listen and take additional notes

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

## 1.3   Instructor

Dr. Scott Campbell, sm2campb@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 student email as soon as possible, but students should not expect a reply before 48 hours have passed. Nor should they expect a reply on weekends or evenings.

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**Email checklist**

◯ Did you read the syllabus, the assignment instructions, or related documents on ACE 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 or UW-ACE account?
  *This helps professors identify students faster and your email is less likely to be rejected as spam*

◯ Did you include the course number in your email?
  *Your professors might teach several courses each term.*

◯ Are your questions or requests direct and specific, such as "What room is the test" or "I need help with the examples from the second Lecture"?

◯ Did you choose an appropriate greeting, such as "Dr.", "Prof", or "Mr."?
  *This is polite and much better than "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 "as soon as possible" is presumptuous and disrepectful of your professor's time.*

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## 1.4   Teaching Assistant and Markers

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|---|---|
| Karl Griffiths-Fulton, kgfwork@gmail.com | Wendy Stocker, wlstocke@uwaterloo.ca |
| Office: E3X 3171 x36215 | Office: E3X 3171, x36215 |
| Hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:30am | 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

The STV100 course reader can be purchased in the UW bookstore. Each lecture is accompanied by a set of required readings, associated study questions and optional readings. The schedule and questions can be found in the *Reading List* on ACE, under *Lessons*. This document will be updated on occasion.

## 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 policies are 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 assignment 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. Speak 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, mobile phones and portable computers

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

I discourage the use of portable computers unless you are actively 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 avoid the front rows and move towards the back of the room.

### 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 substantial projects 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 a rubric will be made available in class and on ACE.

## 3.1 Perspective Project, 25%

The Perspective Project is designed to reinforce several key STV concepts and to encourage awareness of other points of view. The group project is broken into several parts. The first two parts 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.

Complete details will be provided; please see the deadlines in section 6.

### Part 1: Evolution vs Revolution, 5%

Before class, students (as individuals) must locate examples of evolutionary and revolutionary perspectives. In class (together as a group) students will compare and evaluate their examples, and submit a brief analysis.

### Part 2: Determinism vs Social Shaping, 5%

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

### Part 3: Information Technology Review, 15%

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

## 3.2 Progress project, 25%

The second of two important lessons in this course is to consider the relationship between technology and society, to appreciate the difficulty assessing what "makes things better" and to think broadly about how we ought to move forward. There are several parts. Students must prepare for several in-class exercises, and will then write a final essay summarizing their insights and discoveries. A brief overview of these parts follows.

Complete details will be provided; please see the deadlines in section 6.

### 3.2.1   Part 1, Social progress, 2.5%

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, 2.5%

Building on the first component, as individuals students 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, 20%

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

## 3.3   Notes for all assignments

Electronic assignment submissions are due by 6pm on ACE. If a student has lost access to ACE, then to avoid a late penalty they must submit an electronic copy directly to the instructor by 6pm via email. Typically students must also submit a paper copy by 7pm in class or they will also suffer a late penalty; no changes to the documents are permitted between 6pm and 7pm.

Please note that all assignment disputes (i.e.: plagiarism, regrading, etc) will be resolved with respect to the electronic copy.

## 3.4   Use of Turnitin

Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will 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 two weeks 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.

## 3.5   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 undergraduates with planning and executing writing assignments.

# 4   Tests, 40%

There will be two in-class midterm-type tests, worth 20% each. Each will be two hours. The tests are closed-book and mostly 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 students will still be familiar with broad course-wide concepts).

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

See the schedule in section 6.

# 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.

## 5.1   Suveys, 5%

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 quantity of surveys completed.

The instructor will collate the survey responses for discussion for the next lecture. Please note that the surveys are not anonymous to the instructor. Students who abuse the surveys with inappropriate answers will forfeit this portion of their participation grade. Also note that surveys cannot be completed "late": once a lecture begins at 7pm, the relevant survey is closed.

## 5.2   Discussion forum, 5%

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. Timing is also relevant: flooding the discussion forum the day before the second test is inappropriate and will not be rewarded. Instead, it is expected that students contribute throughout the term. Please not that merely *reading* the forum does not count as participation and postings made after the test will not count towards the participation grade.

# 6 Schedule

| Date | Lecture Topic | Activity or Deadline |
|------|---------------|----------------------|
| Jan 4 | 0. Welcome | |
| Jan 11 | 1. What is technology | Perspective Project intro. |
| Jan 18 | 2. Determinism and Shaping | Persp. Prj. 1 (5%, in-class) |
| Jan 25 | 3. Technological Transfer | Persp. Prj. 2 (5%, in-class) |
| Feb 1 | 4. Digital Divide and Wikipedia | Persp. Prj. discussion |
| Feb 8 | | Test 1 (20%) |
| Feb 15 | 5. Technological Systems | Persp. Prj. 3 (15%) |
| | | Progress Prj. intro |
| Feb 21-25 | *Reading Week* | |
| Mar 1 | 6. Control and Ethics | Progress Prj. 1 (2.5%) |
| Mar 8 | 7. Technology and War | Progress Prj. 2 (2.5%) |
| Mar 15 | 8. Technological Obsolescence | Progress discussion |
| Mar 22 | 9. Technological Progress | Progress Prj 3 (20%) |
| Mar 29 | | 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. The grades will be rounded to integers using a round-half-to-even method, which is more fair statistically, but perhaps not what all students are used to.