

STV 302 Winter 2013 Syllabus

Dr. Scott M. Campbell

7 January 2013

1 Introduction

1.1 Calendar description

STV 302: Information Technology and Society

The course has been designed to provide a framework or set of intellectual tools to help students understand and evaluate technological change. These tools will be applied to the development of information technology, its interaction with society, and possible future scenarios. Selected topics include understanding digitization as culture, visions of the future and perils of prediction, as well as issues related to application areas such as the home, manufacturing, office work, design and services, education, and law. The course will also consider some of the privacy and personal dignity issues associated with information technology.

Credit weight: 0.5

Pre-requisite: Level at least 3A or one of STV 100, 202, 203, or 205

1.2 Location and Time

RCH 106, Monday 7-9:50pm

This is a seminar-style course: each week, a brief introductory lecture will be followed by class discussion of the topic and readings, supplemented by occasional videos or guest lectures.

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)

1.4 Website

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

1.5 Textbook and readings

There is no textbook. Instead, online readings and study questions will be assigned weekly. Students are expected to download (and print, if necessary) the material, read it in advance, post comments to the discussion forum and be prepared to discuss it in class.

1.6 Objectives

Completion of the course should enable students to:

- Describe the various ways in which information technology influences society and vice versa
- Discuss the social responsibilities of people to create or use information technology
- Appreciate the social and technical challenges of information technology in the world

2 Evaluation

The deadlines follow. Expanded details and rubrics will be discussed in class and made available on the course website.

2.1 Participation

2.1.1 Online, 15%

Students must submit a short commentary post to the discussion forum from weeks 2 to 9 about the assigned readings for that week. The deadline is noon the day of class.

2.1.2 In-class, 20%

Students must participate in-class each week, by contributing to the class or group discussions with original and creative insights, ideas, and comments. Two participation marks are available each week to a maximum of 20 marks.

2.2 Essays, 45%

Two essays will be assigned. The first is worth 25% and is an individual assignment. The second is worth 20% and will be completed in a group. Both require insightful discussion and analysis of a course topic covered in the previous weeks.

2.3 Presentations, 20%

The same groups that work on the second essay will present their findings late in the term. Presentations are expected to run 40 to 50 minutes, including class discussion.

2.4 Notes for all assignments

Although assignments and participation are primarily about a student's ideas and analysis, part of the evaluation includes the ability to express himself or herself coherently in an organized fashion. Students are also expected to defend their ideas with suitable evidence, without vast generalizations or factual inaccuracies.

If students have writing or group-work concerns, they should contact the instructor as early as possible. The *Writing Centre* offers general assistance for students with writing difficulties. See <https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre/>.

2.4.1 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 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.

2.5 Final grades

Final grades submitted to the Registrar are not modified in any way aside from rounding partial grades to whole integers.

Copies of all submissions will be retained for one year past the end of the course. At that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with the University's confidential shredding or electronic records destruction procedures.

3 Schedule

The topic schedule is tentative; assignment deadlines and presentation dates are fixed.

Week	Date	Topic	Deadline
1	Jan. 7	Introduction	
2	Jan. 14	Privacy	Discussion forum, noon (repeats until March 12)
3	Jan. 21	Intellectual Property	
4	Jan. 28	Security	Essay 1 Instructions
5	Feb. 5	Civics	
6	Feb. 12	Where is the Internet?	Essay 1 Due, 11:59pm
	Feb. 19	<i>Reading Week</i>	
7	Feb. 26	Work	Essay 2 and Presentation Instructions
8	March 5	Gender	
9	March 12	Data	Essay 2 outline due, start of class
10	March 19	<i>Presentations</i>	
11	March 26	<i>Presentations</i>	
12	April 1	<i>Presentations</i>	Essay 2 due, 11:59pm

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

4 Policies

4.1 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.

4.1.1 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.

4.1.2 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!

4.1.3 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.

4.1.4 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.

4.1.5 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. Contact the instructor as soon as possible if you require academic accommodations.

4.2 Course Policies

The following policies are specific to this course.

4.2.1 Late assignments

All assignments submitted late will be penalized 10% of the assignment per 24 hour period (including weekends) past the deadline to a maximum of the assignment value.

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

4.2.2 Exceptions and Extensions

Students who are ill must make contact with the instructor within 48 hours of a missed deadline, and must supply a *University of Waterloo Verification of Illness* form within one week to obtain an extension.

All exceptions to course policies require 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.

4.2.3 Group work

Group work in this course will require effective and considerate collaboration and cooperation. All group members share the same grade and the same penalties, including any that arise from cases of academic dishonesty or plagiarism. Contact the instructor immediately if you are having difficulties working with your group.

4.2.4 Test conflicts

As this is a night course, occasionally other instructors schedule conflicting midterm tests. No student can be asked to miss one official class activity for another and since the other instructor created an activity outside of officially scheduled class time, they are obligated to provide alternate test arrangements in the case of a conflict. 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.

4.2.5 Gender-fair language

Gender-fair or gender-neutral language should be used for all written or oral work. 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>.

4.2.6 Excessive disruptions, mobile phones and portable computers

Arriving late to class and using portable electronic devices inappropriately can be very distracting for students around you, and disrupting lectures in a way that affects others will not be tolerated. Acceptable behaviour includes actively taking notes or researching a relevant topic.

4.2.7 Feedback

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