STV404 Fall 2011 Syllabus

Dr. Scott M. Campbell

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Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Calendar description

Technology in Canadian Society

The course begins by questioning whether or not there is anything distinctive about Canadian design and its context. Through the use of historical and contemporary cases, this course examines factors influencing design and technology choice in Canada and their outcomes. The future of design is also considered in terms of current trends, issues, challenges and opportunities. Credit weight: 0.5

Pre-requisite: None

1.2 Location and Time

Lectures: RCH 209 Thursday 7-10pm

The lectures will be held seminar style: a brief introductory lecture regarding the week's topic followed by class discussion of the readings. Typically, there will be a single break around the midpoint of the evening and occasionally, the evening may be enhanced via guest lectures or screening of videos.

Lectures slides or notes, where appropriate, will be available online for students.

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 or on weekends.

Email checklist

○ Did you read the syllabus, the assignment instructions, or related documents on the course 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 or UW-ACE 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 second Lecture"?
If not, Consider visiting during office hours or asking after class.

○ Did you choose an appropriate greeting, such as "Dr.", "Prof.", or "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 "as soon as possible" is presumptuous and disrespectful of your professor's time.

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2 Course Details and Policies

2.1 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.

2.2 Readings

The assigned textbook for this course is R. Douglas Francis. *The Technological Imperative in Canada: An Intellectual History.* Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780774816519. It will be available in the UW bookstore. Further readings will be distributed online or on reserve at the Davis Centre library.

See the Reading List on the course website for a schedule and supplementary readings.

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% 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 2.4.5).

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

2.4.2   Regrading

Grades for all assignments can be appealed. Speak with the instructor for more information about the grade you received, and if unsatisfied, after a 24 hour cooling-off period, submit to the instructor a written justification explaining why you feel your grade is inappropriate *and* how you would address any criticisms and I'll regrade the assignment. The new grade may be higher or lower than the original, and will be considered final.

2.4.3   Test conflicts

Because this is a night course other instructors occasionally schedule tests during 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.

2.4.4   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.

2.4.5   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.

2.4.6 Excessive disruptions, mobile phones and portable computers

Lectures are not the ideal time for talking loudly with friends, playing games, watching movies, emailing or playing on Facebook. These activities can be very distracting for students around you, and disrupting the lectures in this way will not be tolerated.

2.4.7 Feedback

I encourage course feedback at all times. Contact me directly or submit anonymous comments on the course website. Look under the *Lessons* tab for the anonymous feedback drop box. I will attempt to address all concerns as soon as possible.

3 Evaluation

3.1 Participation, 25%

This course will revolve a great deal around the weekly seminars. Students are expected to contribute to the discussions and share their research discoveries, and to learn from other students in return. Students who are shy, or otherwise find it difficult to speak up in a small group should speak to the instructor early in the term to discuss alternate arrangements. An online discussion forum will be created on ACE; this might be one outlet for such students.

The participation grade will be an overall assessment of how well each student participates in the course: Are they contributing to the weekly seminar discussions? Did they complete the assigned task for the following seminar? Have they clearly done the readings? Are they engaged with the material, bringing questions, ideas, and new material from other sources? Participation requires preparing, thinking, talking, and listening to others.

These are not quantitative assessments, but qualitative. So, I'm not going to keep attendance, but students who fail to show up to the seminars (or show up late, consistently) are less able to participate and their grades will go down accordingly. Students can ask for an estimate of their participation grade at any time.

3.2 Project Proposal, 5%

The main goal for this course is a research project relating to the issue of technology in Canada. Possible topics will be provided, but students will also be encouraged to consider alternatives of their own. Students will develop a research proposal, outline their preliminary ideas and some possible resources in-class, then submit their proposal.

See the deadline below in section 4. Further details regarding topics and expectations regarding length and depth of the proposal will be made available.

3.3 Research Notes, 20%

As part of the project, students are expected to provide regular updates in-class to their peers and submit a few research notes. Students can choose from different types of research notes, such as short book reviews (worth 10%), an annotated bibliography (10%), two-page reading-response papers (2% each), or substantially improve a relevant Wikipedia entry (5% each). Students can and should suggest other types of research notes depending on their preferred research style.

Students can submit these research notes at any time after their proposal has been approved until the last day of classes, although at least half (i.e.: 10% worth) must be submitted by the first meeting in November (see section 4). Further details will be made available about grading schemes and expectations.

3.4 Presentation and Essay, 20% and 30%

At the end of term, students will deliver a presentation about their research findings, and shortly after, submit an accompanying essay. Presentations should be at least 20 minutes (not including questions); essays should be at least 20 pages (not including bibliography and references). The exact presentation date may depend on the number of students enroled this term. The deadline for the essay will be the final day of classes to provide time for adjustments or improvements following feedback at the presentations (see section 4).

Further details regarding expectations will be made available. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor individually to discuss their research or writing.

4 Schedule

Deadlines in this course will be firm, but weekly topics are tentative and may shift throughout the term. Dates **in bold** are non-seminar dates.

Date	Deadline	Weekly topic
Sept. 15		Welcome
Sept. 22		Technologies of place and style
Sept. 29		What is Canadian technology
Oct. 6		Identity and nationalism
Oct. 13	Proposal discussion	Transportation and travel
Oct. 17	Proposal submission deadline	
Oct. 20		Engineering and education
Oct. 27		Geography and environment
Nov. 3	Half of research notes submission deadline	The Brown Thesis
Nov. 10		Grappling with the imperative
Nov. 17		Philosophizing the imperative I
Nov. 24		Philosophizing the imperative II
Dec. 1	Presentations	
Dec. 5	Final deadline for remaining research notes and essay	

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 will not curved or modified in any way, although they will be rounded to whole integers using a round-half-to-even method. This is statistically fair but perhaps not what all students are used to.