

Sociology 4990

Technology and Society

Instructor: Dr. Rob Reynolds
Office: Social Science Building 122
Office Phone: 801-626-6237
Email: reynolds@weber.edu (Put SOC 4990 in the subject line.)
Office Hours: TTH 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., or by appointment.

NOTE: This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what will be covered during the course, and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as course needs arise.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to help you understand the relationship between technology and society. Technology is often portrayed as just artifacts with no meaning beyond their application. When we look at society we realize that not all members experience society the same. While this may be self evident, we will endeavor to not only describe how it occurs, but seek for explanation of why. This process of disaggregation is an important element in the sociological process.

READINGS

Textbook

Slack, Jennifer D. & J. Macgregor Wise. 2015. *Culture and Technology: A Primer, 2nd Ed.* New York: Peter Lang.

Sociology Writing Group. 2013. *A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers, 7th ed.* New York: Worth Publishers. You can use an earlier edition.

Additional Readings on Canvas.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

You will be evaluated on a book review (20%), two midterm exams (25% each), and a reflection paper (20%). Your attendance and participation (10% combined) will also count toward the final grade. Attendance will be taken each class period and participation will be noted. Participation is vital to a course of this nature. These issues are not cut-and-dry; they deserve discussion.

Book Review: You need to choose a book to review by Tuesday, 1/19/2016. After reading the book, evaluate it in about four or so double spaced pages, covering the points made in chapter 6 of *The Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*. This book review is due on **Thursday, February 18th**.

Midterm Exams: There will be two exams. The exams are take-home exams. Exam 1 will be given out in week 7 and is due **Thursday, March 17th**. Exam 2 will be given out week 13 and is **due 4/26/2016**. There will be a choice of questions, each of which will need 2-4 pages to answer. Chapter 2 of *The Guide of Writing Sociology Papers* can help you with framing your answers.

Reflection Paper: The reflection paper is about you and your experiences. Look at yourself in terms of technology. Where do you fall? How do you use it? How does it affect your opportunities? How does it frame who you are? Be sure to consider social class, sex, age, and ethnicity. Consider where you have lived. Make connections between your personal experiences, technology, and the larger social system, using your sociological imagination (ala C. Wright Mills). This reflection paper is due **Thursday, April 7th**.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

95% = A	87% = B+	77% = C+	65% = D+	<60% = F
90% = A-	83% = B	73% = C	60% = D	
	80% = B-	70% = C-		

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request. Please refer to SSD's website for more information: <http://weber.edu/ssd> For more information about the SSD contact them at 801-626-6413, ssd@weber.edu or departments.weber.edu/ssd

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In addition to, but *not instead of*, assigned readings, you may wish to consult other sources (including discussing assignments with other students). This is acceptable, but is not required. However, in all instances, you must do your own work and credit must be given where credit is due. There is no excuse for plagiarism, or for submitting another's work, ideas, or wording, as your own. As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is "the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person's or group's ideas or work." If you plagiarize, or otherwise cheat, on any assignment or exam you will receive a failing grade for the course and your name will be forwarded to the Dean of Students. Any student who does not understand how to avoid plagiarism must request assistance from the instructor.

WSU subscribes to Turnitin.com, an electronic service that verifies the originality of student work. Enrollment in this course may require that some or all of your assignments be submitted to Turnitin this semester. Documents submitted to Turnitin are retained, anonymously, in the company's databases.

Emergency Closure: If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements on Canvas. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

Note: The following schedule represents my best guess about what we will be doing in this class this semester. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, the due dates of all readings and assignments are subject to change. All changes will be announced in advance in class. Each student is responsible for keeping track of all changes.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Readings and Assignments
1	What is technology?	Chapters 1 & 9
2	Technology & society relations in historical perspective	Readings on Canvas
3	Technology & society relations in historical perspective	Readings on Canvas
4	Theories of technology & what technology does, the received view.	Chapters 2 & 3
5	Theories of technology & what technology does, the received view.	Chapters 4 & 5
6	Theories of technology & what technology does, alternative views.	Chapters 6, 7, & 8; Book Review due 2/18/2016.
7	Technological determinism	Chapters 10, 11, & 12
8	Gender & technology	Chapter 15 & Readings on Canvas
Spring Break March 7-11, 2015		
9	Politics & Technology	Chapter 13 & Readings on Canvas; Midterm Exam 1 due 3/17/2016.
10	Economics & Technology	Chapter 13 & Readings on Canvas
11	Social Inequality & Technology	Readings on Canvas
12	Community and Technology	Chapter 14 & Readings on Canvas; Reflection Paper due 4/7/2016.
13	Technology today and tomorrow	Readings on Canvas
14	What does it all mean?	Chapter 16 & Readings on Canvas
Finals Week		Midterm due 4/26/2016.