

Wilfrid Laurier University  
Waterloo, ON  
Communication Studies  
Technology & Society  
CS213A  
Fall 2014

Day: Monday, Wednesday  
Time: 11:30am-12:50pm  
Room: Alvin Woods 2-105  
Instructor: Jeremy Hunsinger  
email:jhunsinger@wlu.ca  
Office: 2-133  
Office Hours: Monday 1-3pm, Wednesday, 2-4pm and by appointment

#### Calendar Description

The aim of this course is to understand technology as a social practice. It will focus on a number of issues concerning the intersections between technology, science and values from a multidisciplinary perspective including history, philosophy, sociology and women's studies. Topics examined include the nature of technology, technological determinism, technology and gender, technology and expertise, and the relationship between technology and social values.

#### Readings:

Weekly articles listed below

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#### Grading:

Participation and workshops	40 points
Weekly Reading Reviews:	15 points
Quizzes	20 points
Final Exam	25 points
 Total	 100 points

#### Participation and workshops:

This course requires interaction and discussion amongst students and the professor. It will have micro-lectures that introduce concepts and questions for you to explore and learn. You will have to engage and discuss these in class through participation. Participation also requires students to collaborate amongst themselves in workshops. In these workshops you will take your knowledge of the readings, prior class content, and apply them to find ways of resolving issues in technology & society. Workshop participation and their outcomes will be peer evaluated and instructor evaluated. Peer evaluations will state the relative contributions of each member which will provide weight to your final workshop grade. For instance, if we have 4 workshop activities and you miss one, you will start with a possible 30 points, but in each of activities, your evaluations showed up under-prepared or otherwise unable to perform and they gave you low marks of 50%, then you would be down to 15 possible points, and if your final grade was only a B to being with that would mean that you would have 13 points. That thirteen points would then be considered against your overall participation in the class and will go up or down. Participation in class should be thought of as

something that one attempts to do with both equality and quality, not quantity. Being the loudest or the one with the most to say will not earn you the most points, but applying your listening and questioning skills to make someone else's idea shine will generally improve everyone's experience, and thus tend to earn the best participation grades. There is a balance between your participation and workshop grades, but your best bet is try to be a good collaborator, well prepared for class, and willing to engage equitably. One way to increase your capacity to perform well in participation and workshop is to read your fellow student's reading reviews.

#### Weekly Reading Reviews:

Each week by Sunday at 9pm, you will post in the weekly discussion area of MyLearnspace a review of the work that you have read for class the forthcoming week. You should strive to do three tasks in this review: first demonstrate that you have read the materials, second you should relate the material to a current event that is reported on in the news (online or offline), and third you should cite appropriately. You will be graded with up to 3 points. A and B level work will receive 3 points, C level work (completion of assigned task) will receive 2 points, and D level work will receive 1 point, F level work or failure to submit will receive 0 points. You have to turn in one each of the 10 weeks indicated in the syllabus. 5 of the 10 will be chosen by the professor to be graded.

#### Quizzes:

There will be two in class quizzes, each worth 10 points. The quizzes are cumulative and cover the readings and lecture materials to date. It will be in your best interest to study for this class weekly. Missing a quiz will result in a 0 on that quiz. University acceptable excuses will excuse you from the quiz. The excused quiz grade will be the average of your quiz grade and your final reading review grade.

#### Final Exam:

The final exam will be offered online via mylearningspace over a 2 day period. The period will be the first two days of the final exam period. It will be 2 hours long and you may take it any 2 hours that you choose during the final exam period. There will be a practice online exam to work out any issues with the technology made available, but it will not cover the class material, and is not intended to prepare you for the final exam. There will be an alternative final exam available for those that request it that will be three out of five essay questions, each essay will be around 5 pages.

#### Recommended Readings:

Acland, ed. 2007. *Residual Media*.  
Balsamo.1996. *Technologies of the Gendered Body: Reading Cyborg Women*.  
Barthes. 1972. *Mythologies*.  
Conley & McLaren, eds. 2009. *Car Troubles: Studies of Automobility and Auto-Mobility*.  
Cowan. 1983. *More Work for Mother: The Ironies of Household Technology*.  
Davis. 2007. *Buda's Wagon: A Brief History of the Car Bomb*  
Erni. 1994. *Unstable Frontiers. Technomedicine and the Cultural Politics of "Curing."*  
Haraway. 1991. *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*.  
Heckman. 2008. *A Small World: Smart Houses and the Dream of the Perfect Day*.  
Hayles. 1999. *How We Became Posthuman*.  
Johnson & Wetmore, eds. 2009. *Technology & Society: Building our Sociotechnical Future*.  
Kolko, Nakamura & Rodman, eds. 2000. *Race in Cyberspace*.  
Latour. 1993. *We Have Never Been Modern*.  
Latour. 1996. *Aramis, or, The Love of Technology*.  
Leiss. 2001. *In the Chamber of Risks: Understanding Risk Controversies*.  
Lupton. 1992. *The Bathroom, the Kitchen, and the Aesthetics of Waste*.

McClintock. 1995. Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Conquest.  
Mackenzie & Wajcman, eds. 1999. The Social Shaping of Technology.  
Marvin. 1988. When Old Technologies Were New.  
Schivelbusch. 1986. The Railway Journey: Industrialization of Time and Space.  
Slack & Wise. 2007. Culture & Technology: A Primer.  
Stabile. 1994. Feminism and the Technological Fix.  
Turkle. 2007. Evocative Objects: Things We Think With.  
Winner. 1986. The Whale and the Reactor.

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Calendar:

Week 1 Introduction, Expectations, and basic readings

Class 8, 10 Sept.

Read E.M. Forster The Machine Stops

<http://archive.ncsa.illinois.edu/prajlich/forster.html>

What Is Technology:

<http://bst.sagepub.com/content/5/3/215.full.pdf+html>

Watch: Things to come [Motion picture]. United Kingdom: United Artists.

[http://archive.org/details/ClaCinOnl\\_ThingsToCome](http://archive.org/details/ClaCinOnl_ThingsToCome).

Week 2 Progress and technological Change: Ludd and Luddites

Class 15, 17 Sept.

Reading review due the 14th

read:

Modern Day Luddites

<http://www.jour.unr.edu/j705/RP.BANNING.LUDDITE.HTML>

America's New Luddites:

<http://mondediplo.com/1997/02/20luddites>

What the Luddites Fought against:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-the-luddites-really-fought-against-264412>

Week 3 Technological Determinism:

Class 22, 24 Sept.

Reading review due the 21th

Read:

Authoritarian and democratic technics. *Technology and Culture*, 5(1), 1 – 8. (google it)

Do Artifacts have Politics? <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20024652>

Technologies, Texts, and Affordances

<http://soc.sagepub.com/content/35/2/441.short>

Week 4 Social Shaping: Designing and Designs

Class 29 Sept and 1 Oct.

Reading review due the 28th Sept.

Read:

The Social Shaping of Technology

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0048733396008852#>

Sociohistorical Technology Studies

<http://srmo.sagepub.com.libproxy.wlu.ca/view/handbook-of-science-and-technology-studies/d17.xml>

The Ethnography of Infrastructure

<http://abs.sagepub.com/content/43/3/377.short>

Week 5 Social Construction/ism

Class Oct. 6, 8

Reading review due the 5th

Read

Upon Opening the Black Box and Finding It Empty: Social Constructivism and the Philosophy of Technology <http://www.jstor.org/stable/689726>

Interzoning In after Zoning Out on Infrastructure

<http://journal.media-culture.org.au/index.php/mcjournal/article/viewArticle/425>

Rules and Implements: Investment in Forms

<http://ssi.sagepub.com.libproxy.wlu.ca/content/23/1/1>

Quiz this week

READING WEEK

13-17TH OCT.

Week 6 Bodies as Technologies

Class 20, 22 Oct.

Reading review due the 19th

Read:

Bentham, Panopticon or the Inspection House

<http://cartome.org/panopticon2.htm>

Feminist Theories of Technology

<http://cje.oxfordjournals.org/content/34/1/143.full.pdf+html>

Socially camouflaged technologies: the case of the electromechanical vibrator

<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/articleDetails.jsp?arnumber=31556>

Week 7 non-human actors

Class 27, 28 Oct.

Reading Review due the 26th

Read:

Where are the missing masses? The sociology of a few mundane artifacts (google it)

Human/Machine Reconsidered by Lucy Suchman (google it)

Mixing humans and non-humans together: Sociology of a Door Closer (google it)

Week 8 Control Societies

Class 3,5 Nov.

Reading review due the 2nd

Read:

Technology and Social Control

<http://web.mit.edu/gtmarx/www/techandsocial.html>

Sleepwalking to the control society

<http://www.ifla.org/publications/sleepwalking-toward-a-control-society-ten-must-know-trends>

Postscript on the Societies of Control by Deleuze (google it)

Week 9 Autonomous technology

Class 10, 12 Nov.

Reading review due the 9th

Read:

Why The Future Doesn't Need Us?

[http://archive.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy\\_pr.html](http://archive.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy_pr.html)

Cyborg Manifesto by Haraway (google it)

The Social Chicken and the Technological Egg: Educational Computing and the Technology/Society Divide

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1741-5446.1997.00051.x/full>

Quiz this week

Week 10 Technological Sublime

Class 17, 19 Nov.

Reading review due the 16th

Read:

Leo Marx's The Machine in the Garden

<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/tech/summary/v044/44.1meikle.html>

Nietzsche gets modern: Transhumanism and the Technological Sublime

<http://litthe.oxfordjournals.org/content/16/1/65.short>

Inscribing Behaviour in Information Architecture Standards

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959802297000088>

Read and watch: <http://www.elasticspace.com/2014/05/internet-machine>

Week 11 Politics of Knowledge & Technology

Class 24,26 Nov.

Reading review due the 23th

Read:

Science, Government, and the Politics of Knowledge

<http://srmo.sagepub.com.libproxy.wlu.ca/view/handbook-of-science-and-technology-studies/d32.xml>

Cultural Politics of Technology

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/1557978?>

Inside the Black Box: Simondon's Politics of Technology

<http://muse.jhu.edu.libproxy.wlu.ca/journals/substance/v041/41.3.schmidgen.html>

Week 12 Technologies as we know them: a review  
Class 1,3 Dec.

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\*note well\*

Grades are given in whole points, not half or partial points.

Any assignment with more than ten spelling, grammar, or logic mistakes will be returned with a grade of a 0, as that is unacceptable. Please proofread your documents as if your job depended on it.

Grades are, unless there is a clear mistake, final.

Late work is not accepted without university acceptable excuse. In the case of a university approved excuse, all materials must be turned in by the last day of teaching for this course.

Students will be treated and should treat each other fairly, equitably, and with respect.

## Notes

1. Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact [Laurier's Accessible Learning Office](#) for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.
2. Students are expected to be aware of and abide by University regulations and policies, as outlined in the current [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) Calendar.
3. Students must reserve the examination period as stated in the [Undergraduate Calendar](#) under Academic Dates. If you are considering registering for a special examination or event, you should select a time outside the examination period. Consult with the [Undergraduate Calendar](#) for special circumstances for examination deferral. (Applicable to Undergraduate students only.)
4. The penalties for plagiarism or any form of academic misconduct are severe and enforced at all times. The [Student Code of Conduct and Discipline](#), and the procedures for investigating and determining appropriate disciplinary measures for breaches of the Code are given in the current [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) Calendar.

Please note: submitting the same work to two different courses, or to different sections of the same course, is academic misconduct and will be addressed according to the procedures outlined in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendar. Students who are repeating a course are not permitted to re-use essays or assignments from the previous course.

Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

5. Students are to adhere to the Principles in the [Use of Information Technology](#), and the Policy on the Classroom Use of Electronic Devices. These Principles and Policy, and resulting actions for breaches are stated in the current [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#) Calendar. Please see the [Policy on the Classroom Use of Electronic Devices](#).
6. Students' names may be divulged in the classroom, both orally and in written form, to other members of the class. Students who are concerned about such disclosures should contact the course instructor to identify whether there are any possible alternatives to such disclosures. Additional information on the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act at Laurier is available at the [Privacy Coordinator Office](#).



### **Foot Patrol walk home service | 519.886.FOOT (3668)**

Foot Patrol is a volunteer operated walk-home service, available daily during evening hours. Male-female, radio-dispatched teams trained in Emergency First Aid are available on request to escort students to and from campus as well as to off-campus destinations, either by foot or by van.



### **Counselling Services & Peer Help Line | 1-866-281-PEER (7337)**

Counselling Services are available to help students deal with emotional, psychological and social challenges of university. Counselling, consultation or referral are available on the 2nd floor of the Student Services Building (across from Health Services), Monday-Thursday 8:30am-8:00pm, Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. Peer Help Line, a confidential listening, referral, information and support line, is available during evening hours to provide support.



### **Student Food Bank**

All Laurier students are eligible to use the Student Food Bank. Anonymous requests can be made online at [WLUSU.COM](#) under the Services tab. All dietary restrictions are accommodated, and food hampers typically last up to a week.

For more information visit [WLUSU.com](#)