

L A K E H E A D U N I V E R S I T Y
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Technology and Society
Sociology 2755WA

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UC0038

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Office Hours: Tues. 1:00-2:00 PM & Thurs. 1:00-2:00 PM

Sociology Department Website: <http://sociology.lakeheadu.ca>

Winter 2013
Mon. 7:00-10:00 PM
RC0005

Course Description

This course of study focuses on the relationship between technological change and social structure. The course identifies and examines the essential sociological theories and concepts which inform our understanding of technological development and diffusion. Emphasis is placed on a consideration of the impact of certain technologies on areas such as work, food, environment, communications, organizations, personal privacy, social interaction, etc.

Required Reading Material

Quan-Haase, Anabel. 2013. *Technology and Society: Social Networks, Power, and Inequality*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Examinations

There are 2 examinations scheduled throughout the course of study. The exams will be based on the required readings and all classroom activities (lectures, videos, discussions). The exams may include short-answer, essay, and multiple-choice questions. Please see the *Grading Scheme* for the weighting of exams, and the *Course Schedule* for examination dates.

**Lakehead University has a very strict policy regarding the failure to write formal examinations at the prescribed time. Please note that make-up examinations will only be offered when missed exams are due to medical and/or compassionate reasons, for which detailed supporting documentation must be submitted. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the University's policy regarding missed examinations. Knowing your obligations in this area may help you avoid serious academic penalty.*

Assignments: Headlining Technology

You must prepare and submit for grading 4 assignments throughout the course. For each assignment you are required to find a brief article in a newspaper, magazine, or internet news service that pertains in some way to technology. You must then write 200-300 words in which you demonstrate how the article relates to any important course concept covered in either our textbook or class material. I suggest the following 3 paragraph format:

1. Identify and define/describe your chosen course concept according to course material
2. Briefly paraphrase your chosen article
3. Show how the article reflects/represents your chosen course concept

You must submit your assignments (including a copy of the original article) by the deadlines indicated in the Course Schedule. Each assignment is worth a maximum of 3% of your final course grade. No electronic submissions will be accepted. A penalty of 5% per day applies to late submissions.

Grading Scheme

Midterm Exam.....44%
Assignments.....12%
Final Exam.....44%

Course Schedule

Jan. 7 & 14: *Technology and Society*, chapter 1

Jan. 21: *Technology and Society*, chapter 2
*Assignment #1 deadline

Jan. 28: *Technology and Society*, chapter 3

Feb. 4: *Technology and Society*, chapter 4
*Assignment #2 deadline

Feb. 11: *Technology and Society*, chapter 5

Feb. 18-22: Reading Week

Feb. 25: Midterm Examination

Mar. 4: *Technology and Society*, chapter 6
*Assignment #3 deadline

Mar. 11: *Technology and Society*, chapter 7

Mar. 18: *Technology and Society*, chapter 8
*Assignment #4 deadline

Mar. 25: *Technology and Society*, chapter 9

Apr. 8: *Technology and Society*, chapter 10
*Assignment #5 deadline

Final Examination: location, date and time TBA