

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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Office Hours: Mon. 2:30-3:30 PM & Wed. 1:00-2:00 PM
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Winter 2012
Tues. 7:00-10:00 PM
AT2019

Course Description

This course of study examines the relationship between technological change and social structure. The course identifies and describes various sociological theories and concepts which inform our understanding of technological development and diffusion. Special attention is given to the causes and consequences of specific technologies in areas such as transportation, communications, work, food, and medicine.

Required Reading Material

Mugenyi, Bianca and Yves Engler. 2011. *Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism on the Road to Economic, Social and Ecological Decay*. Vancouver: Red Publishing.
Tudge, Robin. 2011. *Global Surveillance*. Ottawa: New Internationalists Publications.

Examinations

There are 2 examinations scheduled throughout the course of study. Both 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.*

Assignments

There are 2 assignments based on the required readings. Details will be announced in class.

Grading Scheme

Midterm Exam.....	40%
Assignments.....	20%
Final Exam.....	40%

READING SCHEDULE

January 17: *Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism*, chapters 1-5, pp. 10-44

January 24: *Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism*, chapters 6-12, pp. 45-90

READING SCHEDULE (cont'd)

January 31: *Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism*, chapters 13-17, pp. 91-138

February 7: *Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism*, chapters 18-23, pp. 142-94

February 14: *Stop Signs: Cars and Capitalism*, chapters 24-26, pp. 195-233

February 20-24: Reading Week

February 28: Midterm Examination

March 6: *Global Surveillance*, 'Introduction' and chapter 1, pp. 8-21

March 13: *Global Surveillance*, chapter 2, pp. 22-47

March 20: *Global Surveillance*, chapters 3 & 4, pp. 48-82

March 27: *Global Surveillance*, chapters 5 & 6, pp. 83-125

April 3: *Global Surveillance*, chapters 7 & 8, pp. 126-61

FINAL EXAMINATION: location, date and time TBA

Recommended Readings: (on Library Reserve)

- Macionis, John J., Linda M. Gerber. 2011. "Material Culture and Technology". Pp. 66-67 in *Sociology: Seventh Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Pearson Canada
- Macionis, John J., Linda M. Gerber. 2011. "Max Weber: The Rationalization of Society". Pp. 91-95 in *Sociology: Seventh Cdn Edition*. Toronto: Pearson Canada
- Marx, Leo. 1993. "Does Improved Technology Mean Progress?" Pp. 3-14 in *Technology in the Future*, edited by Albert H. Teich. New York: St. Martin's Press
- Postman, Neil. 2003. "Informing Ourselves to Death". Pp. 101-10 in *Computers, Ethics, and Society*, edited by M. David Erman and Michele S. Shauf. NY: Oxford
- Weinberg, Alvin, M. 1972. "Can Technology Replace Social Engineering". Pp. 171-78 in *Technology and Society*, edited by Noel deNevers. New York: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co.
- Hopkins, Patrick D. 2009. "The Intersection of Culture, Gender, and Technology". Pp. 195-203 in *Technology and Society: Building our Sociotechnical Future*, edited by Deborah G. Johnson and J. M. Wetmore. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press
- Volti, Rudi. 2004. "The Dawn of the Motor Age, 1886-1905". Pp. 1-21 in *Cars and Culture*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press
- Einsiedel, Edna F. 2009. "Patents in the Public Sphere: Public Perceptions and Biotechnology Patents". Pp. 51-63 in *Emerging Technologies: From Hindsight to Foresight*, edited by Edna F. Einsiedel. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press
- Goyder, John. 2005. "Technological Diffusion". Pp. 75-91 in *Technology and Society: A Canadian Perspective 2nd Edition*. Peterborough: Broadview Press
- Heilbroner, Robert L. 2009. "Do Machines Make History". Pp. 97-106 in *Technology and Society: Building our Sociotechnical Future*, edited by Deborah G. Johnson and Jameson M. Wetmore. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press

Recommended Readings: (cont'd)

- Macionis, John J., Linda M. Gerber. 2011. "Gerhard and Jean Lenski: Society and Technology". Pp. 81-86 in *Sociology: Seventh Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Pearson
- Feagin, Joe R. and Robert Parker. 1996. "The Rise and Fall of Mass Rail Transit". Pp. 385-90 in *Readings for Sociology*, edited by Garth Massey. New York: Norton
- Lowe, Graham S. 1993. "Corporate Capitalism and the Administrative Revolution." Pp. 25-37 in *Work in Canada: Readings in the Sociology of Work and Industry*, edited by Graham S. Lowe and Harvey J. Krahn. Scarborough: Nelson Canada
- Weber, Max. 2007/1946. "The Characteristics of Bureaucracy." Pp. 113-16 in *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, edited by John J. Macionis et al. Toronto, Ontario: Pearson Education Canada
- Bereano, Phillip. 2003. "Technology is a Tool of the Powerful." Pp. 85-90 in *Computers, Ethics, and Society*, ed by M. David Erman and M. S. Shauf. NY: Oxford
- Burgess, M. and J. Tansey. 2009. "Technology, Democracy and Ethics: Democratic Deficit and the Ethics of Public Engagement". Pp. 275-86 in *Emerging Technologies: From Hindsight to Foresight*, ed by E. F. Einsiedel. Vancouver: UBC Press
- Winner, Langdon. 1993. "Artifact/Ideas and Political Culture" Pp. 283-92 in *Technology in the Future*, edited by Albert H. Teich. New York: St. Martin's Press
- Fraser, Jill Andresky. 2007. "They Used to Use a Ball and Chain: Technology's Impact on the Workplace." Pp.140-49 in *The Transformation of Work in the New Economy*, Robert Perrucci and Carolyn Cummings Perrucci. L.A., CA: Roxbury
- Heron, Craig. 1993. "The Crisis of the Craftsman: Hamilton Metal Workers in the Early 20th Century." Pp. 4-13 in *Work in Canada: Readings in the Sociology of Work and Industry*, edited by Graham S. Lowe and Harvey J. Krahn. Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson Canada
- Graham, Laurie. 2007. "Inside a Japanese Transplant." Pp. 351-67 in *The Transformation of Work in the New Economy*, Robert Perrucci and Carolyn Cummings Perrucci. Los Angeles, California: Roxbury Publishing Co.
- Reiter, Ester. 1993. "Working at a Burger King Outlet." Pp. 369-79 in *Work in Canada: Readings in the Sociology of Work and Industry*, edited by Graham S. Lowe and Harvey J. Krahn. Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson Canada
- Ritzer, George. 2008. "Control: Human and Non-human Robots". Pp. 115-139 in *The McDonaldization of Society*, George Ritzer. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge
- Burgess, Jean and Joshua Green. 2009. "YouTube's Cultural Politics". Pp. 75-99 in *YouTube*, Jean Burgess and Joshua Green. Malden, MA: Polity Press
- Chadwick, Andrew. 2006. "The Political Economy of Internet Media". Pp. 289-316 in *Internet Politics: States, Citizens, and New Communication Technologies*, Andrew Chadwick. New York: Oxford
- Monahan, Torin. 2009. "Questioning Surveillance and Security". Pp. 537-557 in *Technology and Society: Building our Sociotechnical Future*, edited by Deborah G. Johnson and Jameson M. Wetmore. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press
- Bubela, Tania and T. Caulfield. 2009. "When Human Dignity is Not Enough: Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning in Canada". Pp. 161-84 in *Emerging Technologies: From Hindsight to Foresight*, ed. by E. F. Einsiedel. Vancouver: UBC Press
- Colen, B.D. 2000. "Organ Concert". Pp. 360-65 in *Technology and Society: A Bridge to the 21st Century*, ed. by Linda S. Hjorth. Columbus, Ohio: Prentice Hall
- Leo, Jonathan. 2007. "American Preschoolers on Ritalin". Pp. 392-401 in *Sociological Odyssey*, edited by Patricia A. Adler and Peter Adler. Belmont, CA: Thomson