

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 2016

Brian McMillan
RB 2036
brian.mcmillan@lakeheadu.ca
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Sociology Department Website: <http://sociology.lakeheadu.ca>

Winter 2016
Thurs. 7:00-10:00 p.m.
BB 1075

Course Description

This course of study examines the reciprocal relationship between technology and social structure. It identifies and describes various sociological theories and concepts which help us understand the dynamics of technological development and diffusion, as well as the impact of technology on patterns of social inequality, formal organizations, the workplace, the industrial food system, the natural environment, transportation, communications, and more. Special attention is given to the nature and impact of new electronic forms of surveillance.

Required Reading Material

Gilliom, John and Torin Monahan. 2013. *SuperVision: An Introduction to the Surveillance Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Recommended Books on Library Reserve

Quan-Haase, Anabel. 2016. *Technology and Society: Social Networks, Power, and Inequality*. Toronto: Oxford University Press

Volti, Rudi. 2014. *Society and Technological Change*. New York: Worth Publishers

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 examinations and the Course Schedule for examination dates.

Assignments: Headlining Surveillance Technology

Each student must prepare and submit for grading 2 written assignments. For each assignment you are required to find a brief article in a newspaper, magazine, or internet news service (NOT an academic journal article or chapter in a book) that pertains in some way to surveillance technologies. You must write 400-500 words in which you demonstrate how the article relates to an important concept, theory, or issue discussed in Gilliom and Monahan's book *SuperVision*. For assignment #1 you must select a concept/theory/issue from the first 3 chapters of the book (up to and including page 71). For assignment #2 you must select a *different* concept/theory/issue introduced and discussed in the last 3 chapters of the book.

I strongly urge you to format your paper according to the following 3 paragraph model:

Paragraph 1. Identify and describe/discuss your chosen concept/theory/issue from the Gilliom book. Do not mention your chosen news article in this paragraph. You should simply convince the reader that you understand your chosen concept/theory/issue according to Gilliom's discussion.

Paragraph 2. Briefly paraphrase your chosen news article. Do not attempt to incorporate the concept/theory/issue that you have identified and described in Paragraph 1. Simply convince the reader that you have read the article and that you have a good grasp of its main points.

Paragraph 3. In this paragraph you bring together your chosen Gilliom concept/theory/issue and the news article paraphrased in Paragraph 2. You demonstrate, in an explicit manner, how your Gilliom concept is reflected in or relates to the news article.

PLEASE NOTE: You must submit hard copies of your assignments, *including hard copies of the original news articles*, by the deadlines indicated in the Course Schedule. No electronic submissions will be accepted for any reason whatsoever. Please use 12pt Times New Roman font, 1" margins, and double-spacing. Each assignment is worth a maximum of 5% of your final course grade. A penalty of 5% per day applies to all late submissions.

Grading Scheme

Assignments.....	10%
Midterm Exam.....	45%
Final Exam.....	45%

Course Schedule

Jan. 7 What is Technology?

Jan. 14 Theoretical Considerations: Part 1
Gilliom & Monahan: "Introduction"

Jan. 21 Theoretical Considerations: Part 2
Gilliom & Monahan: "My Cell, My Self" ch. 1

Jan. 28 Technological Diffusion
Gilliom & Monahan: "It's in the Cards" ch. 2

Feb. 4 The Differential Effects of Technology
Gilliom & Monahan: "Lives Online" ch. 3

Feb. 11 Selected Contemporary Issues
Deadline: *Headlining Surveillance Technology Assignment #1* (class time & location; no e-versions accepted; late penalties apply; maximum 5% final course grade)

Feb. 18 READING WEEK

Feb. 25 MIDTERM EXAMINATION (regular class time/location; 45% final course grade)

Mar. 3 Technology and Jobs: Part 1

Mar. 10 Technology and Jobs: Part 2
Gilliom & Monahan: "Surveillance in Schools" ch. 4

Mar. 17 Technology and Organizations

Gilliom & Monahan: "Watching You Work" ch. 5

Mar. 24 Technology and Government

Gilliom & Monahan: "Security at Any Cost?" ch. 6

Gilliom & Monahan: "Conclusion"

Mar. 31 Selected Contemporary Issues

Deadline: *Headlining Surveillance Technology Assignment #2* (class time & location; no e-versions accepted; late penalties apply; maximum 5% final course grade)

FINAL EXAMINATION: location/date/time TBA; 45% final course grade