

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Technology and Society
Sociology 2755FA

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Fall 2013
Tues. 7:00-10:00 PM
AT2001

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

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 is one assignments based on the required readings. Details will be announced at a later date.

Grading Scheme

Midterm Exam.....40%
Assignment.....20%
Final Exam.....40%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept. 10: *The Technological Society* (Quan-Haase ch. 1)

Sept. 17: *Technology in Society: A Historical Overview* (Quan-Haase ch. 2)

Sept. 24: *Theoretical Perspectives on Technology* (Quan-Haase ch. 3)

Oct. 1: *Techno-Social Designing* (Quan-Haase ch. 4)

Oct. 8: *The Adoption and Diffusion of Technological Innovations* (Quan-Haase ch. 5)

Oct. 15: *The Labour of Technology* (Quan-Haase ch. 6)

Oct. 22: Midterm Examination

Oct. 29: *Technology and Inequality* (Quan-Haase ch. 7)

Nov. 5: *Community in the Network Society* (Quan-Haase ch. 8)

Nov. 12: *Technology-mediated Social Relationships* (Quan-Haase ch. 9)

Nov. 19: *The Surveillance Society* (Quan-Haase ch. 10)

Nov. 26: *Ethical Dimensions of Technology* (Quan-Haase ch. 11)

FINAL EXAMINATION: location, date and time TBA

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