

Semester Program

Academic Discipline

Society and Technology



GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

The course aims to examine how society has been influencing the development of technology and vice-versa and shall invite students to reflect upon the impacts of technology on people's lives currently.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- a) Get an introductory overview of the relationships between technology and society.
- b) Learn through classic and modern theories as well as with local and global case studies.
- c) Discuss with peers and instructor in a fruitful way so as to drive critical thinking about the role of technology on people's lives.

PROGRAM:

- 1. Introductions & presentation of the course
- 2. The nature of technology: metaphor, rationality, determinism
- 3. Winners and losers: technology as a subversive force; what it can do – and what it cannot
- 4. The sources of technological change: technological change as a social process; “push” and “pull”
- 5. Scientific knowledge and advance: how technology differs from, and facilitates scientific discovery
- 6. A planet under stress – is technology the problem or the solution?
- 7. Medical technologies and ethics: diagnostic technologies; when does life end? when should it?
- 8. Genetic technologies: farm bioengineering;

cloning; the perils of genetic intervention
9. Technology and work transformation: earliest tools; agriculture; the clock; the ironies of progress
10. Technology and jobs: more of one and less of the other? the changing structure of the economy
11. Technological change and job life: smart technologies and dumb jobs? White-collar jobs
12. The printing revolution: knowledge expansion; literacy and social change; reading digital news
13. The electronic media: radio; television and politics, violence, and thought

14. The internet age: the digital divide; privacy in the digital age; e-media in modern society
15. The tools of destruction: the weapons and their consequences; the era of smart weapons
16. Technology and Organizations: technology as cause and consequence of organizational structure
17. How government policies shape technological change: democratic control of technology
18. Technology and its creators: who's in charge of whom? globalization and cultural convergence
19. Individual Assignment
20. Key takeaways & end of course



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