

## SOCIOLOGY 302

# *Technology, Society & Social Change*

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris T. Papaleonardos  
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**Office:** 363B Journalism  
**Office Hours:** Tues & Thurs, 1:30-2:30 & by appointment  
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### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The use of technology is a basic feature of all human societies, and our technologies strongly influence the way we live. Equally important but less obvious, technology itself is a product of social, economic, political and cultural patterns. This course will help the student understand the process from innovation to implementation, and the relationship of technology and social change, through examination of the social consequences of technological change, as well as the social forces that shape and produce it. The increasingly rapid pace of technological change presents numerous new challenges that we must face, as individuals and as societies, and this course will touch on some of these.

### **REQUIRED BOOKS:**

- Rogers, Everett (2003), **Diffusion of Innovations** (5th Edition), Free Press
- Feenberg, Andrew (1999), **Questioning Technology**, Routledge
- Bijker, Wiebe E. (1997), **Of Bicycles, Bakelites, and Bulbs: Toward a Theory of Sociotechnical Change (Inside Technology)** The MIT Press; Reprint edition
- Easton, Thomas (ed.) (2004) **Taking Sides : Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Science, Technology, and Society** (6th edition), McGraw-Hill/Dushkin

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

*Course grading will be based on the following requirements (separate handouts will be distributed detailing requirements for the papers):*

1. **Class participation:** (10% of course grade) Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions.
2. **Paper on Bijker.** (15% of course grade). Each student will write a 4-5 page paper on Bijker's book.
3. **Paper on Feenberg.** (15% of course grade). Each student will write a 4-5 page paper on Feenberg's book.
4. **Midterm exam.** (30% of course grade).
5. **Final exam.** (30% of course grade).

### **A FEW CLASS RULES:**

1. Requirements are just that – **requirements**. Failure to complete the assigned papers or exams will result in an E for the course.
2. Late assignments may not be accepted, or if accepted, may incur a late penalty.
3. **You are responsible for all announcements made in class.** It's a good idea

- to exchange phone numbers (or e-mail addresses) with 2 or 3 other students in the class so you can get lecture notes and any announcements made in class.
- Attendance is strongly recommended; it will not be possible to get a decent participation grade if attendance is spotty.
  - A makeup midterm will be offered **only** in the case of documented emergencies. The makeup midterm will only be offered on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 12 noon, in my office. You must contact me within one week of the regular exam date to get my approval to take the makeup.
  - There will be no extra credit or incompletes given for this course.
  - Cellular phones and/or pagers must be turned off or set to a silent setting.
  - Academic misconduct will not be tolerated.** All cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct for investigation. Please refer to the University's Student Code of Conduct for further clarification of academic misconduct, and to the section below, specifically about plagiarism.

### **ABOUT PLAGIARISM:**

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that is sometimes not fully understood by students, and therefore it may be helpful to give separate attention to it.

From OSU's Code of Student Conduct:

*"Plagiarism is the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas"*

**In other words, plagiarism is the act of stealing the ideas and/or the expression of ideas of another and representing them as your own.**

**The most obvious form of plagiarism is copying someone else's work word-for-word, in whole or in part, without acknowledgment, whether that work is a magazine article, a portion of a book, a website on the internet, a newspaper piece, another student's essay, or any other composition not your own.**

**Changing a few words of another's composition, omitting a few sentences, or changing word order or sentence structure does not constitute original composition and, therefore, is plagiarism.**

**All aspects of plagiarism and academic misconduct apply equally to all computer usage.**

**The University regards plagiarism as a very serious matter and deals with it appropriately. The penalties for plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are heavy and severe. All cases of plagiarism are turned over to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct to be investigated and, in cases where violation of the Code of Student Conduct is established, a penalty is imposed which may range from recommending an "E" in the course to dismissal from the University.**

## **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

TUES 3/28 Intro to Course / The Nature of Technology

TUES 4/5 Effects & Sources of Technological Change  
Rogers, ch 1, 4

- TUES 4/12 Science, Technological Advance and the Diffusion of Technology  
Rogers, ch 5-6  
TS: Issue 3
- TUES 4/19 The adoption and diffusion of technology;  
Organizations & technological change  
Rogers, ch 7-10  
TS: Issues 11, 13
- TUES 4/26 *discussion of Bijker's book*  
**\*\*\*\* Paper on Bijker due at beginning of class TUES 4/26 \*\*\*\***  
Technology, Energy & The Environment  
TS: Issues 5, 6, 7
- TUES 5/3 **MIDTERM EXAM – TUES 4/26**  
Work in Nonindustrial Societies
- TUES 5/10 Employment, Technology and change in the workplace  
- Liker, Haddad, & Karlin: "Perspectives on Technology and Work Organization" (on JSTOR) <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0360-0572%281999%2925%3C575%3APOTAWO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O>
- TUES 5/10 The Printed Word and Electronic Media  
TS: Issues 14, 16
- TUES 5/17 Technology and Its Creators: Who Controls Whom?  
- Weinstein, "Feeling Helpless: The Idea of Autonomous Technology in Social Science" (on JSTOR) <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0304-2421%28198107%2910%3A4%3C567%3AFHTIOA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O>
- TUES 5/24 *discussion of Feenburg*  
**\*\*\*\* Paper on Feenburg due at beginning of class TUES 5/24 \*\*\*\***  
Global inequality and technological diffusion  
- Gruhn, "Towards Scientific and Technological Independence?" (on JSTOR):  
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-278X%28198403%2922%3A1%3C1%3ATSATI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-9>  
TS: Issue 18
- TUES 5/31 Governing Technology  
Rogers, ch 11  
TS: Issues 1, 15, 19

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday JUNE 7, 11:30-1:18**

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

*Contact me privately to discuss your specific needs if you feel you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented*

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