

TECH 250: Impact of Technology on the Individual and Society (4 units)

Course Syllabus – Fall Quarter 2009

Catalog Description: An exploration of the ways technology impacts individual human development within global social systems. Including an emphasis on lifelong acquisition of technology skills with an optional service learning component. General Education Block E Requirement [Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development].

Course Overview: The University’s philosophy for this course is that it should “*equip students for lifelong understanding and development of themselves in the context of global and multicultural environments and in the context of social and cultural institutions.*” Thus, among the goals of this course is twofold: (1) given the phenomenal rate of technological change in our world, reflection about the lifelong process of acquiring new technology knowledge and skills; (2) encourage analytical thinking □□, both supportively and critically, about the role technology plays in our personal and professional lives.

These dual objectives will be pursued through two avenues:

- First, as a term project, you will develop a technology acquisition plan and commit to either *learning* a new technology of your choice, or commit to *teaching* a new technology to someone as a community service in conjunction with Cal State L.A.’s Educational Participation in Communities Office. In either case, during your project, you will be reflecting on the knowledge-acquisition process by keeping a project journal.
- Second, you will explore current issues in technology through reading, discussing, presenting, and writing. Workgroups will be used during the class for both discussions and activities, as appropriate.

General Education: The following University goals for General Education courses will be addressed as part of this course.

- Enhancement of knowledge and skills for lifelong self-development.
- Improved written and oral communication skills.
- Improved ability to engage in critical thinking across disciplines, including natural sciences, math, social sciences, and arts and humanities.
- Improved quantitative reasoning skills, with a focus on an understanding of statistical information related to technology issues.
- Enhanced values and knowledge to enable and promote democratic participation in our society.
- Understanding of outstanding achievements in technology.
- Understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of global technology (or lack of it) and awareness of social concerns and issues from racial and gendered and multicultural perspectives.

Student

Responsibilities: It should be clearly understood that each student has responsibilities:

- Attend all scheduled class meetings
- Obtain all information and/or notes when absent or late
- Have a Cal State L.A. Network Information Services (NIS) account to access all campus technology resources (i.e., Library computers and databases, campus wireless network, myCSULA student portal, WebCT, remote Internet connections, classroom and Open Access Lab computers)
- Regularly monitor your email account for course-related communication. Messages sent to students' Network Information Services (NIS) e-mail accounts from administrative offices, colleges, and faculty will be considered official University communications.
- Turn in all assignments ***when due***
 - Assignments are due on the date indicated on the syllabus.
 - If an assignment is due and you are unable to attend class, it is the student's responsibility to be sure that it arrives no later than the due date.
 - Late work will be accepted only until the end of the class period following the due date (and all late work will be penalized 10% of total point value). Absolutely no late work accepted after that time.
 - No assignments will be accepted after the end of the last class meeting.
- Work cooperatively and professionally
- Comply with all University policies and procedures (*University Catalog*)
- If a student has any questions about these policies or the contents of this syllabus that are not resolved during class, please discuss them with me in a timely manner during office hours.
- All take-home written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, and *proofread*.
 - Proofreading means, at a minimum, using a spell check program on your word processor and correcting spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. If you are unsure how to do this, please consult me or a tutor in the computer lab.
 - Papers with frequent errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar, or that include writing problems so severe as to obscure the author's intent, will not be assigned credit.
 - Plagiarism and all other forms of cheating will, on first infraction, result in a grade of 0 for the assignment; a second infraction will result in failure for the entire course. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please consult me or the Student Handbook. Note that *all* instances of cheating will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs Office.

Reasonable

Accommodation: College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology faculty fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) who needs and requests accommodation. Please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for assistance in such matters and then inform me as soon as possible. The faculty may wish to contact the OSD to

verify the presence of a disability and confirm that accommodation is necessary. The OSD will arrange and provide for the accommodation.

Reasonable accommodation may involve allowing a student to use an interpreter, note taker, or reader; accommodation may be needed during class sessions and for administration of examinations. The intent of the ADA in requiring consideration of reasonable accommodation is not to give a particular student an unfair advantage over other students, but simply to allow a student with disability to have an equal opportunity to be successful.

Evaluation/Grading: In addition to completing all assignments, you are expected to attend and participate in all class activities. Absences, after one, will result in the loss of ten points per absence. Makeup quizzes may be arranged only if the professor is notified before the absence and must be made up before next class.

Attendance and Class Participation	100 points	20%
Quizzes	400 points	40%
Research Presentation and Documentation	100 points	10%
Final Presentation	150 points	15%
Final Report	150 points	15%
	1000 points	100%

The total number of points earned will determine the grade for this course.

930-1000 points	93-100%	A
900-929 points	90-100%	A-
870-899 points	80-89%	B+
830-869 points	80-89%	B
800-829 points	80-89%	B-
770-799 points	70-89%	C+
700-769 points	70-89%	C
600-699 points	60-69%	D
Less than 600	<60%	F

“I” – Incomplete Grade

An “I” grade will be assigned only if *all of the following conditions are met*: (a) the student requested such a grade before the final class meeting, (b) the student has completed all but one or two of the assignments, (c) the student can provide some compelling reason for your request for an “I” (with documentation, if requested by me), and (d) the student has missed no more than three class meetings over the entire quarter.

* As I am sure you are aware, the state of California is facing an unprecedented budget crisis that has resulted in a 31 billion dollar deficit. The impact of this on the California State University (CSU) system includes a reduction of approximately 580 million dollars; for CSULA, the reduction is nearly 20% of the campus' annual budget. Given a reduction of this magnitude, the CSU cannot continue business as usual. In addition to the recent increases in tuition and fees, campuses are also mandating employee furloughs, mandatory unpaid days off. Almost every employee on the staff, management, and faculty of Cal State L.A. will be observing, some impacting class meetings. Most faculty are required to take 6 days of unpaid leave each quarter, during which time they are prohibited from performing any university work. Days when classes and office hours will not be held due to furloughs are included in the syllabus. It is important to recognize that these days off are **not** holidays. For more information, please visit www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/furlough/students.php