

TECH 250 - 04: Impact of Technology on the Individual and Society (4 units)

Course Syllabus – Fall Quarter 2010

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: This course challenges students to develop their understanding of the dynamic interaction between/among technology, the individual, society and their related responsibilities. Students will explore contemporary technological issues and their impacts including the ways technology impacts individuals and societies within global systems in a range of areas including ethics, energy, the environment, education, war, health, social well-being, and education.

Among the University's goals 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, students 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.
- Second, as a term project, students will develop and execute 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 their project, each student will be reflecting on the knowledge-acquisition process by keeping a project journal.

Student

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the dynamic interaction between/among technology, the individual, society;
2. identify their responsibilities related to the use of various technologies and their related ramifications;
3. access, synthesize, and apply information from multiple sources to understand technology and its current and potential impact;
4. assess the positive and negative factors related to the use of technology in multiple situations;

5. identify and value the importance of lifelong learning related to technology;
6. learn a new technology skill or teach it to someone else;
7. identify differences in learning styles; and
8. apply their knowledge of their personal learning styles to understand how they learn best.

General Education

Goals: 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.

Texts & Readings: Hjorth, Linda S., Eichler, Barbara A., Khan, Ahmed S., & Morello, John A. (2008). *Technology and Society: Issues for the 21st Century and Beyond, 3rd Edition*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson. [ISBN: 0-13-119443-7]

Additional readings will be assigned as appropriate.

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Key Dates: Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-3:10 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 27: attending a conference; *no class*

Thursday, Nov. 11: Veterans' Day; *campus closed*

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 26-28: Thanksgiving Holidays; *campus closed*

Final Examination: Monday, December 6, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Course Requirements

and Assignments: Reading and class discussion of the readings are a significant part of this course. Reading assignments ***must*** be completed prior to the class meeting on the days when the discussion is listed as an activity. All class materials (syllabus, schedule, readings, and assignments) will be made available via the class Learning Management System (LMS) in pdf format.

The quizzes will require that you demonstrate a grasp of material and concepts presented in class, as well as thoughtful responses to the issues raised in the articles and the class discussions. Since there is a need identified by the University to improve student writing skills, some of the quizzes will require short essay responses.

Your technology acquisition project requires that you to spend at least 20 hours acquiring a new technology skill, or 16 hours if you choose to teach one through the CSULA service-learning program. If you choose to learn a new technology, the technology you select must enhance your personal or professional life in some way and be something that *you are not already doing in another class*. It should also be complex enough that you might benefit from seeking several methods of learning—e.g. private lessons, instructional manuals or videos, classes, magazines, etc. The term project will consist of developing a technology acquisition proposal and plan, keeping a journal of your activities and progress, submitting a final report, and giving a presentation.

***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 you 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. 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	10%
Quizzes and Assignments	400 points	40%
Group Presentation and Documentation	100 points	10%
Technology Acquisition Project & Report	200 points	20%
Final Exam	200 points	20%
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	1000 points	100%

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

930-1000 points	93-100%	A	770-799 points	77-79%	C+
900-929 points	90-92%	A-	700-769 points	70-76%	C
870-899 points	87-89%	B+	600-699 points	60-69%	D
830-869 points	83-86%	B	Less than 600	<60%	F
800-829 points	80-82%	B-			

“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.