

## Soc 415      TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

WARNING: This is NOT a typical lecture course. It is unusual in its subject and methods. It is for mature adults only; consider carefully whether this is really the right course for you.

It is more than writing intensive --it is also listening intensive, speaking intensive and thinking intensive.

It does not require knowledge of computers, electronics or sociology.

It does demand excellent attendance, keeping up with weekly assignments, and giving your full attention to class discussions, lectures and other activities.

To write well you must think well, and good thinking requires your complete attention.

Because you must make an oral report on the assigned reading EVERY WEEK, you will not be able to hide. The entire class as well as the professor will evaluate you: industrious, lazy, thoughtful, superficial, B.S. artist, etc.

The classes are LONG, L O N G, L O N G -- Up to 2 1/2 hours. Can you sit, concentrate, or stay awake this long on Monday afternoons??? Many students cannot.

The unusual grading system is designed to reduce anxiety and give you flexibility in deciding what grade you want to work for. Instead of traditional exams, there are specific requirements for earning each grade.

To earn a C there are four requirements:

**ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance is absolutely essential. Because this is not a lecture course, activities and information during the class period are crucial. You must be here in order to know what is going on. The class meets only once a week, and there are only 14 meetings in all, so each class counts. Get here on time, and stay for the whole period. If you cannot do this, regardless of the reason (work, transportation, overlapping courses, sports practice, family problems, etc.) do not take this course.

You are allowed two absences. Three or more will lower your grade. Illness or medical emergency are the only

exceptions. Ordinary medical appointments or any other appointments will NOT be excused. A physician's notice must be submitted.

#### WEEKLY REPORTS

Read the assignments EVERY week and make an oral AND written report to the class.

Select two sections from each chapter, describe the main point or idea of each section, and pick out two specific details, facts or anecdotes which illustrate the main idea of the section. Write @ 50 words for each of the two sections you select; to total @ 100 words per chapter.

Your oral report will be at least one minute long. You are NOT permitted to refer to the book while presenting your report, but you may look at the written reports you prepared.

#### PARTICIPATION

You must speak clearly and loudly enough so that others in the room can hear and understand you. You must be willing to ask questions or offer comments every week. This is not a typical lecture course, so you must do your share to keep the class going. Do not leave it up to the other students or the professor to do the talking.

Participation also involves being a good LISTENER. Pay attention when other people are speaking. You can learn from them.

Do not talk with your neighbor while someone else is talking to the class. It distracts other people as well as you. Acoustics in this room make even soft whispers audible and annoying. Whispering will not be tolerated. IT WILL LOWER YOUR COURSE GRADE.

#### WRITING

Along with good attendance, reading and participation, there will also be:

In class exercises on grammar, punctuation and other aspects of good writing  
Short (One Page) written assignments, to be announced.  
Quizzes

To earn a B

In addition to the requirements for lower grades, there will be two oral reports on any aspect of technology that interests you.

To earn an A

In addition to the requirements for lower grades, write a report on:

PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY (5 - 6 pages)

TO QUALIFY FOR WRITING THIS REPORT THERE ARE THREE ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITES:

1. ABSENCE OF MISTAKES in your ARTICLE RESEARCH and ELECTRONIC SWEATSHOP reports, especially:

- Complete sentences
- Agreement of subject and predicate
- Correct use of apostrophes and commas

2. INTERVIEW a TECHNOLOGY USER. 2 double spaced pages, include direct quotes from the user

3. PROPOSAL for Term paper. 50 - 100 words proposal for this report three weeks before the term paper is due. This proposal should include a tentative title, the subject, sources of your information, and a brief summary/outline of the report, with at least four section headings. If you miss this proposal deadline, your full report will not be accepted.

PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY (5 - 6 pages)

Illustrate an idea or concept from this course by something that happened to you or that you observed, or that involved someone you know, or have read about. Remember that this is a course in SOCIOLOGY, not physics or engineering, so emphasize the human, social, people aspects.

In your opening paragraph state specifically what the concept is and where it was located: which chapter, handout, video, etc. Also tell what experience, problem or situation you are writing about.

Check your report carefully before you hand it in. Remember, this is a Writing Intensive Course. Reports with more than three mistakes will not be accepted.

SUBSTITUTIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. You cannot, for example, miss three classes and then do a term paper and get a B.

All written assignments must be typed, and pages numbered

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TO SUMMARIZE, this course is for mature adults willing to work to prepare for the cold, competitive Real World beyond the campus. The class de-emphasizes written exams and other traditional procedures which encourage procrastination, last-minute cramming, and anxiety over the possibility of blowing the entire semester if you happen to have a bad day when you take the midterms or final.

Instead, this course takes a different approach, requiring you to attend every class, prepare every week by doing the reading, and by focusing your full attention during class.

Is this course for you? It depends.

You have to be self-disciplined, adventuresome (there are few courses like this) and willing to listen and contribute (speak) in class. If you are, this could be an intriguing course. If you are not, DON'T TAKE THIS COURSE.