

Technology and Society

Sociology 415

Instructor: Jonathan Dial

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays; 12:00pm – 1:15pm

Location: Saunders 637

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3pm or by appointment

Office: Saunders 211

Email: dialjonathan@gmail.com

Class Objectives:

This course will take a sociological perspective on the relationship between technology and society. Readings will be drawn from texts from both within and outside of the discipline of sociology. Many people believe that changes in technology necessarily lead to changes in society, and we can see that this is true in some cases. However, others (especially sociologists) contend that social forces determine technology, and we can see that this is true in other cases. Others argue that a combination of the two is more accurate in understanding the relationship between society and technology. Through a wide range of academic articles, this course will examine each of these arguments in depth, as well as case studies on old and new technologies in order to provide students with a thorough understanding of these issues.

Students in this course will develop critical thinking skills to understand how technology is shaped by social factors and how technology contributes to shaping society. In order to foster that development, the assignments will emphasize academic thought, discussion, research, and writing. Students will be expected to keep up with and understand the assigned readings and produce two papers. The first paper (5-7 pages) will be a literature review on a topic on which they choose to conduct research, and the other will be a completed research paper (10-15 pages) that incorporates the first paper. A final presentation will accompany the final paper.

Assignments:

Readings

You are expected to have readings completed by the day they are assigned in order to participate in and contribute to the class discussion. There will be a brief quiz on the readings on the day on which they will be discussed. The quizzes will also be used to determine attendance.

Textbook (required): Science, Technology, and Society: A Sociological Approach. (2006). Written by Wenda K. Bauchspies, Jennifer Croissant, and Sal Restivo. ISBN: 978-0-631-23210-0

Supplemental Readings (required): Assigned articles from academic journals will be posted to Laulima.

Written Work Written work for this course is composed of two parts and is expected to adhere to the American Sociological Association's (ASA's) citation guidelines. All writing is expected to be grammatically correct. We will discuss the guidelines and expectations of these assignments in greater detail in class. Written assignments must be submitted via email in Microsoft Word format.

(1) Each student will write a literature review on the topic they select for their research project. Papers should be 5-7 pages (double-spaced) in length, include citations, and compare the topic/reading they presented with other readings/theories from the course, as well as outside sources. Only academic sources can be used.

(3) The research paper (10-15 pages, double-spaced) will analyze a technology or relevant topic chosen by the student and the instructor. Original quantitative or qualitative data is required. Details of requirements will depend on the project and must be worked out with the instructor.

Analysis should include citations from assigned readings as well as outside sources. Suggestions for analysis: Is this technology changing society? Why or why not? How has society been involved in the shaping of that technology? What policy implications accompany this technology? What do you predict concerning the future of this technology? Why?

Presentations

Research Project

Each student will give a 10 minute presentation during the last three weeks of the semester. Presentations will cover the background/literature review of your research topic, methodology, findings, and analysis. Visual aids are encouraged.

Attendance and Participation

As this class focuses heavily upon class discussions, attendance is required. Attendance will be taken daily and will count toward your overall grade. However, simply attending class is not the same as contributing to the discussion. Thus, students who do not participate in the discussion will be counted as absent.

Grading:

Quizzes – 20%

Literature Review – 20%

Final Project Presentation 20%
Final Project Paper – 20%
Attendance/Participation – 20%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 –

1/12 – Introduction

1/14 – Chapter 1: Introduction (Textbook)

Week 2 –

1/19 – Nye: Does Technology Control Us? (Laulima)

1/21 – Pinch and Bijker: The Social Construction of Facts and Artifacts: Or How the Sociology of Science and the Sociology of Technology Might Benefit Each Other (Laulima)

Week 3 –

1/26 – Young: The Architecture of Global Environmental Governance (Laulima)

1/28 – Besel: Opening the Blackbox of Climate Change Science (Laulima)

Week 4 –

2/2 – Chapter 2: Cultures of Science (Textbook)

2/4 – Albert and Kleinman: Bringing Pierre Bourdieu to Science and Technology Studies (Laulima)

** Due 2/12 Midnight: Literature Review Paper

Week 5 –

2/9 – Ruth Schwartz Cowan: The Industrial Revolution in the Home (Laulima)

2/11 – Callon and Bowker: Is Science a Public Good? (Laulima)

Week 6 –

2/16 – Chapter 3: The Dance of Truth (Textbook)

2/18 – David R. Johnson: Technological Change and Professional Control in the Professoriate (Laulima)

Week 7 –

2/23 – Selwyn: Making sense of young people, education, and digital technologies (Laulima)

2/25 – Chapter 4: STS and Power in the Modern World (Textbook)

Week 8 –

3/1 – Altheide: Media Logic, Social Control, and Fear. (Laulima)

3/3 – Bucher: The Friendship Assemblage: Investigating Programmed Sociality on Facebook (Laulima)

Week 9 –

3/8 – Tufekci and Wilson: Social Media and the Decision to Participate in Political Protest: Observations From Tahrir Square (Laulima)

3/10 – Marwick and boyd: I tweet honestly, I tweet passionately: Twitter users, context collapse, and

the imagined audience (Laulima)

Week 10 –

3/15 – Tufekci: Engineering the Public (Laulima)

3/17 – Chapter 5: Life after Science and Technology Studies (Textbook)

Week 11 –

3/22 – **Spring Break**

3/24 – **Spring Break**

Week 12 –

3/29 – Bill Joy: Why the Future Doesn't Need Us (Laulima)

3/31 – John Seely Brown and Paul Duguid: Don't Count Society Out (Laulima)

Week 13 –

4/5 – Allenby: Are New Technologies Undermining the Laws of War? (Laulima)

4/7 – James Fallows: The American Army and the M-16 Rifle (Laulima)

Week 14 –

4/12 – Coveney, Gabe, and Williams: The sociology of cognitive enhancement (Laulima)

4/14 – Marks and Russell: Public Engagement in Biosciences and Biotechnologies (Laulima)

Week 15 –

4/19 – Presentations

4/21 – Presentations

Week 16 –

4/26 – Final Presentations

4/28 – Final Presentations

Week 17 –

5/3 – Final Presentations

5/5 – Final Presentations

Final Paper Due: Sunday (5/8/2016) @ Midnight

The Sociology Department has established three Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that support the Institutional Learning Objectives:

- SLO 1: Students will be able to evaluate sociological theories and use them to analyze

- and understand aspects of the social world.
- SLO 2: Students will be able to collect, analyze, and interpret data, and draw valid conclusions from their analyses.
 - SLO 3: Students will have clear and effective verbal and written communication skills.

Additionally, Student Learning Objectives for this course include:

- Work toward clear and effective verbal and written communication
- Define and describe sociological concepts around the issues of technology and science
- Describe and apply sociological theories pertaining to technology and science
- Describe some sociological methods that can be used to study technology and science
- Discuss sociology topics using empirical data from scholarly sources.

Kokua

Any student in need of additional help, due to disability, can contact me personally and the KOKUA program officer to discuss ways to accommodate specific needs. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 or by email (kokua@hawaii.edu). The KOKUA office is located in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Plagiarism

“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student’s language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; and “dry-labbing,” which includes obtaining and using experimental data from other students without the express consent of the instructor, utilizing experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms, and fabricating data to fit the expected results.”

- University of Hawai`i at Manoa *Student Conduct*

< <http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm> >

It is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake" are not considered valid excuses when it comes to plagiarism.