1. Course Description
This course provides a critical examination of the complex interrelationship between society and technology. The course makes students aware of the pervasiveness of technology in our everyday lives, creating and encouraging an understanding of how technology interacts with and is embodied in society. Technology is both the driving force behind societal change as well as the output of our technological imagination. It is this dichotomy that will be examined in this course. Students will learn about how digital tools have led to the development of a high-tech society characterized by customization, individualism, and privatization. The course covers topics such as innovation in the technology sector, Facebook, online surveillance, digital inequality, and immaterial labour.

2. Learning Outcomes and Specific Course Objectives

1. Demonstrate knowledge of social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of social experience, and assess them from a critical sociological perspective.
2. Understand the implications of theory and sociological research for interpreting social events and practices.
3. Read, synthesize and evaluate theoretical arguments and published research from a critical perspective.
Students Completing this Course will:

1. Compare and critically examine a wide range of theories on the complex interrelationship between society and technology.
2. Learn about how digital tools have led to the development of a high-tech society characterized by customization, individualism, and privatization.
3. Obtain an overview of the key approaches that are being developed to understand the complexities of digital labour.

3. Prerequisites
None.

4. Required Text


You can purchase a copy of the textbook at the UWO bookstore or online at http://www.bookstore.uwo.ca. There are also copies available at the UWO library.

If you misplace this course outline, you can download another copy from the course website.

5. Course Requirements and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Proportion of Test Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1 (multiple choice)</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (multiple choice)</td>
<td>Examination Period</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is one mid-term test and a final exam. The tests consist of multiple-choice questions. The mid-term test will take 1 hour and 30 minutes and there will be no class on that day. The final exam will last 2 hours. A zero mark will be given to students who miss a test or the final exam without a legitimate excuse. Please follow the steps outlined by the Office of the Registrar. Grades from in-class tests will be posted within a week from the exam online.

The mid-term test and final exam are based on the covered book chapters, lecture slides, and lecture notes. Lecture notes are the responsibility of students. If, for any reason, you cannot attend class, you are responsible for obtaining lecture notes from your classmates. The instructor will not provide lecture notes.

Policy Regarding Missed Exams
Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any
other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor’s documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.

**Compassionate Grounds**

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty’s Academic Counseling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty’s Academic Counseling office.

6. **Grade Guidelines**

Department of Sociology guidelines require a particular course grade distribution, which may require curving or otherwise adjusting your course grade in order to meet this requirement. As much as possible, your earned course grade will be the grade you receive. For 2200-level courses, the course mean is to be between a 66-70%, and there are to be more Bs than As.

7. **Plagiarism**

In accordance with policy at UWO:

Students are expected to work alone during tests and the final exam. The UWO regulations state that: "Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Regulations).

8. **Course Schedule**

It is your responsibility to consult the course schedule below in order to keep up with the course readings and ensure you do not miss the tests. Sleeping in or misreading the schedule are not accepted excuses for missing a test. If you lose this document, you can consult the course web site. The course schedule outlines the topics to be discussed each week, the readings corresponding to the lectures, and test dates. Assigned readings should be completed before attending the class.

**Being on Time and Texting/Social Media**

Students are expected to be on time for class. Any missed material is your responsibility.

Please read the “Principles in the Use of Information Technology” outlined in the current Student Calendar and adhere to these guidelines.

*Texting* and checking social media sites during Class is NOT permitted (unless you have permission from the instructor).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Assignment</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>The Technological Society</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Technology in Society: A Historical Overview</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives on Technology</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Techno-Social Designing</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6.   | Oct. 9 | The Adoption and Diffusion of Technological Innovations
CLASS REVIEW
(CHAPTERS 1 to 5 + NOTES) | Chapter 5 |
| 7.   | Oct. 16| Test 1 (30%)                             | Test covers material from Class and Chapters 1 to 5 |
| 8.   | Oct. 23| The Labour of Technology Technology and Inequality | Chapter 6
Chapter 7 |
| 9.   | Oct. 30| Fall break (study time) NO CLASSES!     |                                   |
| 10.  | Nov. 6 | Community in the Network Society         | Chapter 8                         |
| 12.  | Nov. 20| The Surveillance Society                 | Chapter 10                        |
| 13.  | Nov. 27| Ethical Dimensions of Technology
CLASS REVIEW
(CHAPTERS 6 to 11 + NOTES) | Chapter 11 |

**Examination Period**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Exam (35%)</th>
<th>Examination Period</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam covers materials from Class and Chapters 6 to 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please check Department of Sociology web site (http://sociology.uwo.ca/) for class cancellations or changes.