

The University of Texas at Tyler
TECH 1301 Technology and Society
903.566.7379
Office hours W 12:00 – 3:00 and by appointment
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Email communication: In the subject line YOU MUST STATE “TECH 1301” and nothing else. I will check email in this folder daily.

COURSE SYLLABUS

TECH 1301: Technology and Society

An introduction to technology systems as applied to manufacturing, distribution, communication, energy/power, etc. The course includes history, system design, operation, service, resources, products, emerging technologies applications, and societal impact.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to prepare you to address the following:

- The creation and use of technology is one of the means by which humans meet their needs, wants, and desires.
- Technology may be an improved means to an unimproved end.
- The world faces profound challenges, many of them created by our technologies and solutions themselves.
- Depending on the nature of a problem, a search for solutions includes an analysis of the influences the technology might have on individuals, groups, organizations, cultures, societies, the environment, and the economy.
- As our imaginations and abilities increase and we experiment with the redesign of nature itself, the decisions we make today will have profound and enduring effects on the human race. As such, we have a responsibility to explore the dilemmas and conflicts created as we design the future. The future of humanity depends on the consideration of the whole human race as new technologies are created and applied.
- The creation and use of technology may pose ethical and moral dilemmas.
- The complexity and interconnectedness of the designed world requires an analysis of the decisions that are made about the design of the modern world.
- Even though a technology may be functionally successful, it may be contextually a failure.
- The important questions are not about engineering, but the ways we want to live.
- We must shift our focus from techno-centric to human-centric.

TEXTBOOK: No textbook is assigned for this course.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Through the consideration of these issues, as they relate to our immediate and long-term futures, you should be prepared to recognize, analyze, defend or refute, and plan your decisions for the future.

- SLO 1. Recognize the effects of technology on life.
- SLO 2. Analyze problems or issues associated with the use of technology.
- SLO 3. Develop a position on the use of technology.
- SLO 4. Analyze the processes you use to make decisions about technology.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Participate in all discussions and formal classroom activities.
2. Read all course materials before the beginning of the next class period.
3. No late assignments.
4. No make-up exams.
5. No sympathy work.

WEIGHTED GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Final exam | 15% |
| Final paper | 15% |
| Assignments | 45% |
| Midterm paper | 15% |
| Midterm exam | 10% |
| Attendance Additional points added to overall total | 5 |

| | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------|---|
| Grade Scale | | 72% - 81% | C |
| 92% - 100% | A | 62% - 71% | D |
| 82% - 91% | B | < 62% | F |

GRADE FORGIVENESS:

“A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) only for two course repeats during his/her graduate career at UT Tyler. Grade forgiveness means that only the last grade earned is used to compute the grade point average. However, all grades will appear on the student’s official transcript. Upon receiving a C, D or F, a student must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class (see schedule of classes for date). Failure to file an intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate overall grade point average. If a student attempts to repeat a course but withdraws and receives an automatic “W,” the attempt counts against the grade forgiveness limit and the original grade remains. A student may not exercise grade forgiveness for courses taken at UT Tyler and repeated at another college or university, nor may grade forgiveness be used when a course taken elsewhere is repeated at UT Tyler. The grade forgiveness option may not be exercised to remove a grade awarded in a case of academic dishonesty. Once the graduate degree has been awarded by UT Tyler, grade forgiveness may not be used to replace a grade taken before graduation.”

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

"If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation(s), please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation(s) must provide appropriate documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579)." Additional information may also be obtained at the following UT Tyler Web address: <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT:

Sec. 8-802. Scholastic Dishonesty

a. The dean or a faculty member may initiate disciplinary proceedings under section 8-300 against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.

b. "Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act.

1. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
 - A. copying from another student's test paper; using during a test materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
 - B. failing to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
 - C. possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes." The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation only if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
 - D. using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
 - E. collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
 - F. discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
 - G. divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned to or kept by the student;
 - H. substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
 - I. paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
 - J. falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
 - K. taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of the university, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
 - L. misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or résumés, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or injuring another student academically or financially.
2. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.
3. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

4. "Falsifying academic records" includes, but is not limited to, altering or assisting in the altering of any official record of the university or the University of Texas System, the submission of false information or the omission of requested information that is required for or related to any academic record of the university or the University of Texas System. Academic records include, but are not limited to, applications for admission, the awarding of a degree, grade reports, test papers, registration materials, grade change forms, and reporting forms used by the Office of the Registrar. A former student who engages in such conduct is subject to a bar against readmission, revocation of a degree, and withdrawal of a diploma.

COURSE SCHEDULE Revised 8/27/08

| Class Meetings | Topic |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8/27 | Syllabus Discussion |
| 9/3 | The Nature of Technology Pt 1 |
| 9/10 | The Nature of Technology Pt 2 |
| 9/17 | Why Humans Create |
| 9/24 | Future Problems |
| 10/1 | Future Problems |
| 10/8 | Automation and the Factory |
| 10/15 | The Role of Technology and Females |
| 10/22 | Exam |
| 10/29 | Critical Thinking |
| 11/5 | Critical Thinking Quiz |
| 11/12 | Critical Thinking Pt 2 |
| 11/19 | Nuclear Power |
| 11/26 | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| 12/3 | Paper or Plastic? |
| 12/10 | Global warming student presentations |
| 12/17: 2:45 – 4:45 | Final Exam |

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus. All modifications will be communicated to the students in a timely manner.