The University of Texas at Tyler

HNRS 2351.002

World, Text, and Image III

Fall 2025

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Course Overview

This course will investigate artificial intelligence tools and their broad impact on society. The content of this course will provide a historical context for technological and cultural change as well as a lens to predict and estimate future impact. The people in this course will provide the ideas and perspectives which will contextualize the course content.

Student learning objectives will be achieved through a combination of course content, student submissions and feedback loops, and class discussion.

Learning Objectives

- Identify epistemological characteristics of technology's impact on culture
- Construct thoughtful and appropriate critiques of AI development, progress, and impact
- Improve written and spoken communication skills
- Describe, compare, and analyze the capabilities, limitations, and evolving trajectory of current AI tools.
- Apply AI tools to academic and/or personal tasks to enhance productivity and evaluate their effectiveness in meeting specific goals.

Materials:

You may locate a used copy of these texts. Check Amazon or your favorite bookstore.

Required:
Postman, N. (1992). *Technopoly: The surrender of culture to technology.* ISBN:978-0679745402

Optional:
Haidt, J. (2025). *The anxious generation.* ISBN: 979-8217059201

Device with Internet Access: It is recommended that you have access to a device with internet access. Some of the ideas we'll cover in this class can be best explored through tools available on the internet.

University AI Policy:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI Policy for This Course:

You can use AI platforms (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, be transparent about that.

Class Participation

Participation is measured by the amount of original thought and personal effort that you contribute to the course. In class discussions, presentations, and other synchronous activities your goal should be authenticity in your contribution – share your thoughts from your preparation and your experiences.

Attendance

This is a Socratic course which needs your input to be of the most value to you and your classmates. The adage "showing up is 90% of success" may be overestimating things a little, but spending time in the course and with your classmates is an important part of our success. Missed classes, as well as missed preparation, will impact your grade.

Late Work

All assignments will be submitted through Canvas. I need you to turn in your work on time so I can give timely feedback – otherwise, we're just trading letters and numbers (words and grades). I'm honestly pretty accommodating with late work as long as you let me know in advance and you don't make a habit of it. If I don't get notice or if it happens more than a couple of times, I'll deduct letter grades to provide additional incentive.

Submissions

The ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively is critical for your success after college. All work should be proofread for technical and grammatical errors. While the topics and ideas in this course are about artificial intelligence and culture, the work you submit should be your creative process and should be professional in its presentation.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a crucial part of your higher education. If you are to develop your knowledge, skills, and abilities, you need to authentically participate in your education. Different cultures may have varied perspectives on plagiarism and authorship, but in this course plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be defined by the following behaviors:

● Submitting someone else's work, or AI-generated content without proper attribution, as your own.
● Paraphrasing another person's or AI's work without crediting the source.
● Failing to cite or incorrectly citing direct quotes or paraphrased material.
● Collaborating with others but submitting the work as solely your own effort.

● Using generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT or similar) without permission or without clearly indicating how the tool was used.

Artificial intelligence tools can be useful for brainstorming, revising, or practicing concepts. However, using them in place of your own thinking undermines your learning. If you're unsure about using AI, **ask before proceeding**. Remember: ignorance of the rules is not an excuse. Your education is an opportunity to develop not just knowledge, but integrity and confidence in your own abilities.

Class Citizenship

This is a college level course, and diversity of thought is encouraged. Consider beliefs and ideas different from your own. Use this opportunity to enhance your understanding and broaden your knowledge of other beliefs, ideas, and approaches. Conflict is part of this process. Healthy conflict is constructive, civil, and sensitive. Intentionally offending others in the class is not defensible and will not be tolerated. Unintentional offenses should be given the opportunity to reconcile the transgression.

Grading

Class Discussions (including preparation) – 30%
Project – 20%
Weekly Essays (14 total) – 50%

A grade of "A", or 90-100% is given to work that demonstrates mastery of the content and rises above expectations of the assignment competencies.

A grade of "B", or 80-89% is given to work that demonstrates mastery in most of the content and average expectation of the assignment competencies.

A grade of "C", or 70-79% is given to work that below mastery in most of the content and is deficient in several areas of the assignment competencies.

A grade of "D", or 60-69% is given to work that is below mastery in the content and demonstrates major deficiencies in several areas of the assignment competencies.

A grade of "F", or 59% and below is given to unsatisfactory work.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Deliverables DUE by 11:59pm Saturday
Aug 26	Generations	**Preparation:** Who we each are
Aug 28	Consciousness	**Essay:** Doing Hard Things
Sept 2	Teaching with AI	**Preparation:** AI Tool U
Sept 4	University Platforms	**Essay:** Writing Policy
Sept 9	Who Gets to Think	**Preparation:** Thought Exercise
Sept 11	Standard Issue	**Essay:** Diffusion of the Central Tool
Sept 16	Environment	**Preparation:** The Place to Be
Sept 18	Culture	**Essay:** Things like This
Sept 23	Super Shoes	**Preparation:** Advantages
Sept 25	Wait, but Why	**Essay:** Social Change
Sept 30	Taxonomy and Limits	**Preparation:** Bloom Up
Oct 2	Make it Right	**Essay:** Significant Learning
Oct 7	Amusing Times	**Preparation:** Chapter Intros
Oct 9	Compare and Contrast	**Essay:** Predictions
Oct 14	Amateur Hour	**Preparation:** Chapter Intros
Oct 16	Crowd Sourced	**Essay:** Good or Bad
Oct 21	Fair Play	**Preparation:** Academic Systems
Oct 23	Boundaries	**Essay:** Building Systems
Oct 28	Skills Week	**Preparation:** Create and Refine
Oct 30	Skills Week	**Preparation:** Create and Refine
Nov 4	Presentations	**Preparation:** Create and Refine
Nov 6	Presentations	**Essay:** What Had Happened
Nov 11	The Long Tail	**Preparation:** Digital Commerce
Nov 13	I Know About Popular	**Essay:** Panning for Gold
Nov 18	Meanwhile, in 1953	**Preparation:** Popular Mechanics
Nov 20	Having a Plan	**Essay:** 10 Years On

Dec 2	The Bright Future	**Preparation:** Odin and the Apple
Dec 4	Unbelievable	**Essay:** That's Nothing, Listen to This
Dec 9	What Now?	**Preparation:** I'm About To

Weekly submission deadlines are set at 11:59pm CST on Saturday, unless otherwise noted.