Course Description
This course focuses on aspects of the history of technology; the moral and social dilemmas that past technologies gave rise to (even when those dilemmas were not clearly acknowledged); the potentials of selected current technologies; and the moral and social dilemmas that those technologies raise. Students study the ways major thinkers have tried to deal with the dilemmas technologies have posed, and are asked to think through their own responsibilities concerning the technologies discussed.

Readings

Articles will be distributed in class from time to time. Students are expected to read the articles as instructed.

Course Objectives
This course encourages a developmental understanding of technology and its impact on society, considering the good, the bad, the debatable.

Through reading, research, discussion and reflective writing, students will:
1. examine the evolution and history of technology by probing the past, facing the present and envisioning a preferred future;
2. consider our transformation from a society that uses technology to one that is shaped by it;
3. confront the need for ethical behavior and social responsibility in using technology;
4. explore the long term effects of technological change and wisdom in using it;
5. debate philosophical issues on technology and its impact in various domains.

Course Requirements
1. Attendance and active participation in class discussion, activities, and class projects.
2. Read and study text, as well as any handouts.
3. See assignments, next page, for explanation of other course requirements.

Course Policies
Attendance. Attendance is an expectation, not an option. It should be clear from the course description, course objectives, and course requirements that class participation is critical to learning. Each class fully attended gains 50 points. If you miss a class, you lose the points for that class. **If you miss three classes, you fail the course.**
### ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

1. **Class attendance and active participation.**
   - **Attendance.** Each class fully attended, with evidence of active participation, is worth 50 points, for 400 points total.
   - **Active participation.** “Active participation” means being actively involved in class discussions and activities. This class requires significant discussion and critical thinking. This means that you need to show participation by reading and doing the assigned work and by coming prepared to discuss it. Consequently, your presence and active contribution are important. The professor will assess your participation in these areas.

   | Attendance + Active Participation | 400 |

2. **Written reflections.** Each student will computer generate four one-page assignments requiring reflections based upon essays from the text. The directions for doing these will be explained the first day of class. Each assignment done well merits 30 points. (Total 120 points)

   | Written reflections | 120 |

3. **Major project.** The purpose of this individual project is to focus on a technological topic relevant and significant to course content. Details for the project will be explained in class. Each student will give a 20-30 minute oral presentation focusing on the project topic with the goal of enlightening the class and stimulating discussion.

   | Major project | 250 |

4. **Grading.** To calculate your final grade for an 8-week term, divide the number of points gained by the number of possible points. Determine letter grade by using the table below.

   | Total | 770 |

**Grading:** 4 Reading Report Assignments @ 15 points each; research paper at 40 points. Grading Scale: 100-90 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; <60 = F.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** All individual work will be the student’s own. The use of others’ work is plagiarism, which will result in penalties to be determined by the professor.