



## School of Liberal Arts

### SOCI 209 SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY, AND VALUES

FALL 2024

3 Credits

Course Outline

<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Dr. Shawkat Shareef	<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>	THURSDAY 10 AM -12 PM
<b>OFFICE</b>	A 2017	<b>CLASSROOM</b>	A 2601
<b>E-MAIL</b>	sshareef@yukonu.ca	<b>CLASS TIME</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 9 am-11.50 am</b>
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	867 456 8604	<b>CRN</b>	10100
		<b>DATES</b>	Sep. 4-Dec. 23 2024
<b>Liberal Arts office:</b> Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the interaction of three entities: The technologies developed by a society, the values of the individuals in that society, and its social organization. The goal of this course is to heighten students' powers of observation concerning technologies and to enhance their critical understanding of the changes new technologies may cause.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Prerequisites:

Engl 100 with 100-level Soci, Anth or Phil recommended.

## EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

## You, Me, Society and Technology

Have you really thought about the fact that we cannot live without cell phones, cars, internet, and all the other amenities that we think and believe have made our lives easier, faster, and certainly more

comfortable here in North America? Indeed, technology and science together have changed the face of the earth, the nature of human interactions or communication, reproductive scenarios, food culture/habit to the extent that the societies all over the world try to implement them, and try not to resist them. However, have science and technology been benevolent, useful and sustainable for all societies, for all humankind? Surely, new technologies have helped some societies to prosper, but not all. In the era of globalization when we like to talk about would like to see social, economic, and political justice being delivered across human societies, its important to understand the role science and technology play to either enhance those values or hinder them. In this course, we will ask many questions and will try to find out the answers: we understand technology has done wonders for humanity, but it's use and abuse have significantly shaped the core values in societies as well. To do that:

- Several theoretical frameworks regarding the tripartite relationships between society, technology and values will be introduced and discussed.
- Current issues and debates will be presented to further understand the theoretical claims of this threefold relationship.
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- Alternative actions/pathways will be pondered in case of the abuse of technology that creates inequality, leading to injustice as a result.

## COURSE FORMAT

### Delivery format

Classes will consist of lectures on, and discussions of the texts, readings and films/video clips specified in the course syllabus. However, we will have a fully resourced online Moodle section for this class. Discussion topics, exams, assignments etc. will run through the Moodle. Having said that, this class is based on predetermined timetable for assignments and exams. **Do note that this is not a self-paced course.**

## EVALUATION

<b>Discussion participation</b>	10%
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	30% ( <b>October 23</b> , 9-11 am, classroom)
<b>Final Exam</b>	40% ( <b>December 4</b> , 9-12 PM, Moodle)
<b>Assignments:</b>	20%, (10% for each assignment): due October 18 and November 25
<b>Total</b>	100%

### Discussion and Participation: 10 %

Participation in class is essential to the development of class unity and the learning process for everyone. Discussion forums offer students a forum in which to express ideas and be educated

through the ideas of others. We will create together a respectful environment where everyone will feel safe and encouraged to speak. This means that students and instructor must monitor their speech so as not to give more than their fair share. Discussion and participation worth 10% of final grade and is graded based on the number and frequency of a student's participation in the class. However, given the nature of sociological theories and other topics that will be covered in the lectures and in the discussion forum, a student's performance in participation will be judged by:

1. QUALITY OF THE DISCUSSION (to ensure quality, student's attendance in class lectures and following of reading materials are pivotal)
2. FREQUENCY OF THE DISCUSSION
3. CONSISTENCY IN CONTRIBUTION (regular contributions in the discussion forums by chapters are important, sporadic contributions will fetch low participation scores).

### **Midterm Exam: 30%**

There is one midterm exam total worth of which is 30% of the final grade. The midterm will be based on multiple choice questions, true/false questions and/or long and short essay topics from the course textbook. Students will have 120 minutes (2 hours) to work on and submit the responses on the Moodle.

### **Final Exam: 40%**

Final exam is worth 30% of the total weight of the final grade. Final exam is based on the course materials that are covered in the course (including URL link-based information, extra articles posted on the Moodle, textbook) and will use multiple choice questions and/or long and short essays. The final exam will be non-cumulative.

**NOTE:** All exams submission are strictly time sensitive and late submissions will not be granted except for extenuating circumstances for which the student has to provide proof.

### **Assignments: 20%**

There will be **TWO** assignments and they worth 20% of the final grade. The topics for the assignments are chosen by the professor based on the text, and/or discussion forum issues. See below for details about assignments. More to follow in the Discussion Forum.

The **length of each assignment** should not exceed five (5) pages of typed text, using 1.5 line spacing and 12-point Times New Roman font. No need to use a cover page for commentaries. Simply put student's name and Id on the top left corner of the submission. The assignments are submitted on the Moodle.

### **TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS:**

**Anadel Quan-Haase (2020). Technology & Society: Social Networks, Power, and Inequality. Third Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.**

E-link for the textbook:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/technology-and-society-anabel-quanhaase-v9780199032297>

## COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at [www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters](http://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters)

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: [www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates](http://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates)

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at [www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters](http://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters)

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: [www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations](http://www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations)

## ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: [access@yukonu.ca](mailto:access@yukonu.ca).

## TOPIC OUTLINE

Week 1 (September 6) Week 1 (Sep 4-6)	<b>COURSE INTRODUCTION AND KNOW-YOURSYLLABUS</b> Readings Chapter 1: Learning Objectives, Questions for Critical Thought. Chapter 1: The Technological Society	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 2 (Sep 9-13)	Reading Chapter 2: Technology in Society: A Historical Overview	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 3 (Sep. 16-20)	Reading	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do

	Chapter 3: Theoretical Perspectives on Technology	you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 4 (Sep. 23-27)	Reading  Chapter 4: Techno-social Designing	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 5 (Sep. 30) Week 6 (Oct. 1-4)	Reading Chapter 6: Technology and Inequality	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 7 (October 9)	Reading: Chapter 7: The Labour of Technology	
Week 8 (October 14- 18)	Reading  Chapter 8: Genders and Technology	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) <b>Assignment 1 due: October 18. Moodle submission</b>
Week 9 (October 21- 25)	Reading Chapter 8: Genders and Technology	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
<b>Week 9 October 23</b>	<b>MIDTERM, 9-11 AM</b>	<b>IN CLASS EXAM</b>
Week 10 (October 28- 31)	Reading Chapter 9: Community in the Network Society	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 11 (October 30)	Reading Chapter 10: Technology-Mediated Social Relationships	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 11 (Nov. 1) Week 12 (Nov. 4-8)	Reading Chapter 10: Technology-Mediated Social Relationships	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)

Week 13 (Nov. 6-10)	Reading Chapter 11: The Surveillance Society	Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum)
Week 14 (November 13)	Chapter 11: The Surveillance Society	Discussion forum participation
Week 15 (Nov. 18-22)	Reading Chapter 12: Ethical Dimensions of Technology	Discussion forum participation
Week 16 (Nov. 25-29)	Reading Chapter 12: Ethical Dimensions of Technology	Assignment 2 due: Nov 25. Moodle submission
Week 17 (Dec. 2-4)	<b>FINAL EXAM, DECEMBER 4</b>	<b>Moodle: 9am- 12pm</b>