

Science and Technology Studies Department<http://sts.info.yorku.ca/>**Course Outline****SC/STS (AP/SOSC) 3500 – The Global Information Society
F2017****Wednesdays 11:30am to 2:30pm @ DB 1016 (Formerly TEL Building)****Expanded Course Description**

This course explores the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in today's global society. We will spend the semester examining three critical questions about our current information age:

1. Are ICTs the key to solving our world's current social problems?
2. Does prolonged internet use change the way we think and process information?
3. Should we expect any kind of individual privacy with the increased use of ICTs in today's world?

Course Instructor(s) and Contact Information**Instructor: Dr. Vera Pavri****Email: pavri@yorku.ca****Office Location: Bethune 317****Office Hours: Wed 2:30 to 3:30pm (By appt. only)**

Please note that I will hold extended office hours during the year closer to assignment due dates. Details will be posted via Moodle.

Email Policies and Etiquette FAQ***1. What is the procedure for sending you an email?***

Since I teach many classes, it is very important that you include the following information in the subject heading: NAME, STUDENT NUMBER, and CLASS (e.g. STS 3500).

Any email that you send me **MUST** come from your @my.yorku.ca account as other email addresses such as hotmail, gmail or yahoo tend to go straight to my junk mail.

If you send me an email, I will reply to it within 24 hours. If you don't get a response, it means that I did not get your email in the first place. Generally, I would prefer that you email me for general course questions (e.g. yes/no, short responses). If you have a specific or lengthy inquiry that requires more detail, please come and speak to me before or after class or during my office hours.

Classroom Etiquette FAQ

Student behavior in the classroom is governed by York's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities: <http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/studentconduct.html>

What are some behaviors to avoid?

Here are the kinds of things you want to avoid doing in the classroom:

1. Having your phone or other media device ring (go off) during class.

Turn your device off or put it on mute before coming to each class. If you do need to take or make an important phone call, be discreet, leave the class and come back when you are done.

2. Inappropriate use of technology.

While you can use devices such as your laptop during lecture, it is really important that you use it for classroom content. It is very easy to get distracted with personal emails, texts and social media, and when your attention is focused on these activities as opposed to lecture, it will definitely have a negative impact on your grade. In addition, watching a YouTube video or scrolling through Tinder during class may distract students near you who are trying to concentrate on course material. It is important to be respectful of the people around you who have paid a lot of money (just like you!) to take this class.

3. Talking really loudly

Please try and refrain from having a loud and sustained conversation with someone while I am lecturing or when another student is talking. Like the use of inappropriate technology, this activity can distract the people around you who are trying to pay attention in class.

4. Shuffling books, packing up and getting ready to leave before the lecture is over

Please do not “pack up” until I tell you class is over. Based on my experience, when a few students mistakenly think the lecture is over, it prompts the entire class to start “packing up” in general. This behavior is distracting, rude and unprofessional. If you have to leave early for any reason, do so discretely.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- a) Identify, describe, analyze and critique core course theories and themes about ICTs in both historical and modern social contexts
- b) Increase civic engagement by surveying and investigating the risks and benefits as well as intended and unintended consequences of modern day computer/ICT use amongst individuals and society as a whole
- c) Enhance independent learning skills by developing strategies for critically reading, synthesizing and evaluating information using the core course texts
- d) Formulate informed opinions by assessing the reliability, authenticity, accuracy and validity of science and technical information presented in core course texts
- e) Adopt a multi-perspective approach (e.g. consider economic, social, cultural, religious, political, and legal factors) when attempting to understand, solve problems or make informed decisions about ICTs in our modern world
- f) Compare and contrast various perspectives/viewpoints related to ICT controversies and question information, arguments, evidence and explanations about ICTs that lack diversity
- g) Examine and assess socio-technical data to make clear and logical arguments when defending your position on a given ICT issue
- h) Respect ownership of data by correctly summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting and/or acknowledging information and appropriately cite sources relevant to research
- i) Effectively communicate an understanding about course content through a variety of written assignments including tutorial reports, exam questions and a major paper
- j) Reflect whether your enhanced understanding of ICTs has made you a more informed and knowledgeable citizen, marketable employee and/or critical consumer in today’s world

Evaluation

3 Tests (3x 20% = 60%)
Bibliographic Essay (25%)
Tutorial Assignments (15%)

Please see lecture schedule
Due Thursday Nov. 30 (online submission)
Details below and in class

For this class, you will be tested on each of the required texts (each test is worth 20%). These tests will be held in class and you will be given ample information about how to prepare for each test in advance.

In addition, you will receive one tutorial assignment per reading (each assignment will be worth 5%). One tutorial assignment will be done individually, one in pairs, and one as a group project.

Further information about your bibliographic essay can be found on the course website and I will also provide details in class. You will be required to use Moodle's TURN IT IN application when submitting your papers.

PLEASE REVIEW THE COURSE POLICIES SECTION OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT LATE ASSIGNMENTS and/or MISSED TESTS

Students with physical or learning challenges who require reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods should discuss this with the Course Director early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made (see university policies section of this document for further information).

In order to be fair and consistent to the entire class, individual grades are not negotiable and "extra credit" assignments are not provided at any point during or after the course to improve your grade. In addition, please contact the instructor about a grade **only** if there is a clear error (calculation, clerical, academic merit, etc.) within two weeks of the grade being made available to you. Details on this procedure will be provided in class.

Required Course Materials

There are 3 required books you need for this course. While extensive research has been done on each book by the authors, they are all written in an easy to understand format. I will also be providing you with a study guide on how to approach the various chapters in each book. This will allow you to focus your attention on the content that matters most. You can purchase either a hard copy or e-version depending on which you prefer.

Author: Kentaro Toyama

Title: ***Geek Heresy: Rescuing Technology from the Culture of Technology***

Publisher: Perseus Books, 2015

Author: Nicholas Carr

Title: ***The Shallows: What the Internet is doing to our Brains***

Publisher: W.W. Norton and Co., 2011

Author: Bruce Schneier

Title: ***Data and Goliath: The Hidden Battles to Collect your Data and Control your World***

Publisher: W. W. Norton and Co., 2015

Course Content and Format

Our class is scheduled to meet on Wednesdays from 11:30 to 2:30pm. Classes will consist primarily of a discussion period of class readings or an in-class seminar. Attendance is mandatory.

The lecture schedule is posted on Moodle. You will be notified if there are any updates or changes to the lecture schedule made during the year.

Course Policies

1. Questions and Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, please contact me (the course director) directly. Once again, you can email me at: pavri@yorku.ca

2. Policy for Late Assignments

Please be aware that NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS will be accepted in this course other than for medical or non-medical emergencies. In these circumstances, you will be asked to provide further documentation (e.g. an Attending Physician's Statement, a letter from a funeral director or plane ticket/boarding pass). Feel free to contact the course director if your situation is different from the examples listed above. After examining your documentation, the course director will decide whether to grant or deny you an extension. Note that being sick for a few days before an assignment is due does not normally constitute a medical emergency.

3. Policy for a Missed Tests and Exams

If you miss a test or exam due to medical reasons, you are required to inform the course director via email within 48 hours about your situation. You will then be asked to fill out York's Attending Physician's Statement and submit it before you are allowed to write the exam at an alternate date and time. Depending on your situation, you may also be asked to fill out a Deferred Standing Form as well. Further information about missed tests/exams and the required forms can be found at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/deferred-standing#request-deferred-standing>

If you miss a test or exam for a non-medical emergency, please contact your course director via email within 48 hours and outline your situation. If your explanation is accepted, you will be asked to provide further documentation (see policy for late assignments). After examining your documentation, the course director will decide whether to grant or deny you permission to write your exam.

Please note that if you miss more than one test, your request for deferred standing for the second test you missed will automatically be denied and you will have to proceed straight to petitions.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

If you would like to record lectures, speak to the Course Director. You will be asked to sign a document which states that you only intend to use the recordings for personal purposes and do not intend to sell them to another party or post them onto a commercial website.

In addition, all lecture notes posted on Moodle are the intellectual property of the Course Director. While you can view and print these notes for your personal use, it is against the law to repost these documents on any commercial website. If we discover that you have done so, you will be asked to remove these documents immediately.

Finally, please note that it is a violation of York's academic integrity policy to buy course assignments, tests answers, essays and other materials from a commercial website. These sites (e.g. Course Hero) are monitored frequently by the department and you will be subject to academic penalty (see the academic honesty and integrity section below) if you are caught using someone else's work. Conversely, if you attempt to repost past course materials for the purposes of re-selling this work to other students, you can still be penalized under York's academic integrity guidelines even if you have already completed the course.

University Policies

Important Sessional Dates

Includes sessional start and end dates, drop deadlines, and withdrawal dates.

See the Office of the Registrar website at <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/>

The last date students can enroll in this course without the permission of the instructor is: **Sept. 20 2017**

The last date students can enroll in this course with the permission of the instructor is: **October 4 2017**

The last date students can drop the course without receiving a grade is: **Nov. 10 2017**

The course withdrawal period for NATS 1775 is: **November 11 to Dec. 4 2017***

***During this period of time you can withdraw from the course and receive a “W” on your transcript.**

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Academic honesty requires that persons do not falsely claim credit for the ideas, writing or other intellectual property of others, either by presenting such works as their own or through impersonation. Similarly, academic honesty requires that persons do not cheat (attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation), nor attempt or actually alter, suppress, falsify or fabricate any research data or results, official academic record, application or document. Finally, academic honesty requires that persons do not aid or abet others to commit an offence of academic dishonesty, including intentional acts to disrupt academic activities.

Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist.

Academic Honesty and electronic devices during assessments (e.g. exams)

- Internet capable and personal storage devices of all kinds must be turned off, including vibrate. These and any other unauthorized material must be placed under the student’s chair and should not be accessed at any point during the exam. Failure to comply with directive may be considered a break of academic honesty.
- See <http://registrar.yorku.ca/exams/tipsheet>

Please familiarize yourself with the full Senate Policy on Academic Honesty, found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

Also familiarize yourself with the SPARK Academic Honesty tutorial found at <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Please familiarize yourself with the full Senate Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>

Note: Students should submit accommodation letters from Counseling and Disability Services (CDS) to the course instructor within the first two weeks of the course or as soon as issued.

Counseling and Disability Services - <http://cds.info.yorku.ca/>

York Accessibility Hub - <http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/>

Note: A student registered with CDS, and choosing to write with Alternate Exams, is responsible for making the appropriate writing arrangements within the timeframes outlined by Alternate

Exams.

Alternate Exams - <http://altexams.students.yorku.ca/>

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents.

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/15/wo/kmHGekTpzKLX6XYKBXYc8M/0.3.4.62.0>

Note: Students who will have an academic conflict as a result of a religious observance, at any point in the term, should make the instructor aware of such at least three weeks prior to the conflict.

For conflicts occurring during an official examination period, please complete the Examination Accommodation Form available at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf and submit to your instructor at least three weeks prior to the final exam.

Student Conduct in Academic Situations

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures regarding disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the website of the University Secretariat (<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/>).

Other Resources

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons brings together key supports for your learning: writing, research, learning skills and career services. <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/>

goSAFE

GoSAFE is a complimentary service provided to the York Community. At the Keele campus, goSAFE has two routes: North Route & South Route which will safely transport community members by vehicle from one specified hub to another on campus. GoSAFE operates seven days a week, all year round, including University closures (with the exception at Glendon during the Christmas holiday closure).

Call the goSAFE office at 416-736-5454 or extension 55454 during hours of operation. Please give your name, location and destination. <http://www.yorku.ca/goSAFE/>

Mental Health and Wellness at York University

Outlines a variety of resources available to support mental health and wellness

<http://mhw.info.yorku.ca/resources/resources-at-york/students/>

Good2Talk

Post-Secondary Student 24 hour Helpline

<http://www.good2talk.ca/> 1-866-925-5454