NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
The City University of New York
School of Arts & Sciences
Department of Social Science
Course Outline

Course code: SOC 2401
Course title: Society, Technology and Self
Class hours/credits: 3 class hours, 3 credits
Prerequisite: SOC 1101
Pathways: Individual and Society

Catalog Description: This course analyzes the social relationship between society, technology and self from a sociological perspective. The emphasis of this course is on technology as the principal form of social interaction, and as a determinant of the reconstitution of the character and personality structures.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK and MATERIALS*
Title: Society and technological change
Author: Rudi Volti
Publisher: Worth Publishers

* The textbook used in a particular section will be chosen by the instructor.

COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT METHODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING OUTCOMES</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT METHODS*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Demonstrate an understanding of the social conditions shaping the development of selves in the context of the scientific and technological advancement.</td>
<td>Exams, essays, in-class discussions, small group workshops, and oral presentations focusing on the examples related to the theoretical concepts introduced in readings and lectures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of technology and technological change on societies.</td>
<td>Combination of multiple-choice and essay questions in exams, in-class discussions, and questions discussed in a small group setting.</td>
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<td>3. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical questions raised by modern technologies.</td>
<td>Exams, quizzes, in-class discussions, small group work, and essays.</td>
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<td>4. Demonstrate an understanding of how and why societies regulate technologies and their use and development.</td>
<td>Exams, essays, quizzes, in-class discussions, small group work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of technological development on social relations, economic opportunities, and inequalities.</td>
<td>Combination of multiple-choice and essay questions in exams, essays, relevant in-class writing assignments and discussions, small group work.</td>
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<td>6. Demonstrate an understanding of the social organization of work involving technologies.</td>
<td>In-class discussions and small group work, oral presentations, written essay assignments</td>
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GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT METHODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING OUTCOMES</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT METHODS*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KNOWLEDGE: Develop an understanding of the</td>
<td>Quizzes, exams, essays, in-class discussions, and oral</td>
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</table>
concepts and theories deployed by sociologists in their analysis of the social factors underlying the use and evolution of technology.

| SKILLS: Develop and use the tools needed for communication, inquiry, analysis and productive work. | Combination of class discussions, oral presentations, in-class small group work, essays, and exams. |
| INTEGRATION: Work productively within and across disciplines. | Quizzes, exams, essays, class discussions, and in-class small group work that draws on various resources in sociology and other disciplines. |
| VALUES, ETHICS, AND RELATIONSHIP: Understand and apply values, ethics, and diverse perspectives in personal, civic, and cultural/global domains. | Combination of class discussions, oral presentations, in-class small group work, and essays that engage directly with the questions about values, ethics, responsibility, and diversity. |

* may vary slightly per instructor to suit their own needs

**SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Quizzes; midterm and final exams including multiple-choice and short answer questions; essay assignments; participation in-class discussions; participation and contribution to small-group projects; oral presentations

* may vary slightly per instructor to suit their own needs

**Capstone Course Statement:**
This course fulfills the LAA/LAS Associate Capstone requirement, though it can also be taken for other requirements and electives. The City Tech LAA/LAS Associate Capstone is designed for students entering their second year in the program. LAA/LAS Associate Capstone courses are meant to prepare students to continue their studies in a bachelor's degree, third-year, or junior, level. In addition, Associate Capstone courses are meant to help students develop an awareness of the importance of knowledge, values and skills developed in general education courses; and to integrate this knowledge, these values and these skills into their advanced academic study and professional careers. Please ask the instructor if you have any questions about what the LAA/LAS Associate Capstone requirement entails.

**FINAL GRADE DISTRIBUTION – elements and weight of factors determining the students’ grade**

- Midterm exam: 20% of the grade
- Final exam: 30% of the grade
- Quizzes: 20% of the grade
- Essay: 20% of the grade
- Attendance/Participation: 10% of the grade

* may vary slightly per instructor to suit their own needs

**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 and below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WU</td>
<td>Unofficial Withdrawal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WF</td>
<td>Withdrew Failing</td>
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. The complete text of the College policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the catalog.

COLLEGE POLICY ON ABSENCE/LATENESS

A student may be absent without penalty for 10 percent of the number of scheduled class meetings during the semester as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class meets</th>
<th>Allowable Absence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 time/week</td>
<td>2 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 times/week</td>
<td>3 classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 times/week</td>
<td>4 classes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

It is the responsibility of the instructor to keep accurate records of every student’s attendance and to inform each class orally and in writing of the applicable attendance policy during the first two weeks of class meetings each semester.

Excessive Absence
If a student’s class absences exceed the limit established for a given course or component, the instructor will alert the student that a grade of “WU” may be assigned. If a student remains officially registered for a course and never attends that course, a final grade of “*WN” will be assigned. If the student withdraws officially from the course, he/she will be assigned a grade in accordance with the existing withdrawal policy of the College.

Appeals
A student wishing to appeal the excessive absence status and the impending grade should request a meeting with the chairperson of the department in which the course is offered. The chairperson will consult with the instructor to render a decision. A student wishing to appeal a “WU” grade may do so through the Committee on Course and Standards.

Lateness
It is the responsibility of the instructor to keep a record of lateness and to inform each class orally and in writing of the lateness policy during the first two weeks of class meetings of each semester.

SAMPLE SEQUENCE OF TOPICS AND TIME ALLOCATIONS*

**Week 1-2**

I. The Individual Self and Socialization

A. Primary Socialization and the Development of Self
   1. George Herbert Mead’s Theory of Self
   2. Charles Horton Cooley’s Looking-Glass Self
3. Erving Goffman’s Presentation of the Self
4. Freud’s Theory of Personality

B. Secondary Socialization to Society and Technology
   1. Norms, Values, Statuses, Roles
      Role Models, Role Conflict, Status Sets, Status Sequences, Role Sets, Role Sequences, Status Conflict,
      Role Strains and Status Inconsistencies
   2. Anomie, Alienation and Disenchantment
   3. Anticipatory Socialization via Educational Institutions

C. Resocialization and the Self: The Technological Corporation: Aspects of a Total Institution
   Critical Independent Variables Affecting Socialization:
      i. Social Class: Marx, Weber, and Objective Approaches
      ii. Sex
      iii. Race
      iv. Ethnicity
      v. Age

Week 2, 3, 4
II. Technology and Division of Labor in Corporate Structure

A. Definitions, Concepts, Theories
   1. Formal Organizations - Etzioni, Blau and Scott, Perrow
   3. Divisions of Labor - Durkheim
   4. Science and Technology
      i. The Scientific Method
      ii. Technology and Its Relationship to Science
      iii. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions - Kuhn
      iv. The Concepts of Culture and Cultural Lag - Ogburn

B. The Changing Situation of the Individual within the Changing Division of Labor
   1. Preindustrial, Agricultural Society
   2. Industrial Revolution and Technology
   3. Post-Industrial Revolution and Technology

C. Twentieth Century Corporation: Division Of Labor: Bureaucratic Organization

D. The Technological Corporation as a Subculture
   1. Norms, Values, Statuses, Roles
   2. Division of Labor
   3. Status Sequences
   4. Mobility Patterns; Normative and Statistical

Week 4-5
III. Structural Mobility within the Organization

A. Formal and Informal Social Structures of Technological Corporations
B. Types of Mobility
   1. Vertical - Upward, Downward
   2. Horizontal
C. Education as a Condition for Mobility
D. The Concept of Career vs. Job
1. Career Ladders
2. Conditions for Success and Failure
   i. Social and Psychological
   ii. Economic
   iii. Education and Lifestyle

Week 6
IV. Individual Mobility within the Organization

A. Education and Mobility
   1. Occupational Choice and Related Variables: Class, Sex, Race, Ethnicity
   2. The Educational Hierarchy
      A. Training Institutions
      B. Teachers
      C. Students
      D. Administrators
B. Role Performance and Mobility
   1. Anticipatory Socialization, Socialization and Resocialization
      i. Corporate Structures and Cultures
      ii. Technological Career Ladders
   2. Role Set, Role Sequence, Role Conflict, Status Anxiety
   3. Values: National, Corporate, Value Conflict
C. Networking
   1. Entry Level Access to Corporations
   2. Intra-And Intercorporate Mobility
D. Blocked Opportunities and Alienation
   1. Causes
   2. Individual Responses
   3. Individual and Social Costs
   4. Latent Functions
   5. Status Attainment

Week 7-8
V. The Work Setting

A. Formal and Informal Socialization to the Technological Environment
   1. Using Technology vs. Being Used by Technology
   2. Competition and Cooperation within the Division of Labor
      A. Corporate Hierarchies: Formal, Informal
      B. Teams, Work Groups, Task Forces
      C. Developing Organizational Social Skills and Knowledge
B. Successful Adjustment to the Workplace
   1. Balancing the Values and Needs of Self with Those of the Organization
   2. Preparing for Socioeconomic and Technological Changes
      A. Occupational Survival:
         i. Keeping Up; Continuing Education For Rapidly Changing Technologies
         ii. Moving into Management and/or Consulting
         iii. Structural and Individual Unemployment and Underemployment
      B. Geographical Factors:
         i. Shifting Job Opportunities
ii. Job and Family Relocation - Social, Economic and Psychological Effects

C. Changing Regional Opportunity Structures
2. Changing Technology
   A. Nature of Changes
   B. Effects of Technological Change within Selected Occupations and Careers
3. Role of Local, State, and National Governments and Politics

D. Staying Prepared for Future Trends
1. More Worker Participation - The Japanese Model
2. The Multi-Career Path
3. The Organizational Technologist
4. Increasing Specialization and Job (Re) Training
5. Job Sharing and Flex-Time
6. Women in Technology
7. The Dual Career Family
8. The Two Person Career
9. The International and Transnational Job Market

Week 9-10

VI. Norms, Self and Technology: Ethics and Action

A. Relevance of Norms to Maintenance of Self
B. Normative Conditions of Individual and Corporate Goal Selection
C. Reconciling Corporate and Non-Corporate Norms and Values
   1. Conformity and the Organizational Man - W.F. Whyte
   2. Conspicuous Consumption - Veblen
   3. Differential Association and White Collar Crime - Sutherland
   4. Anomie and Deviance - Durkheim and Merton
   5. Alienation - Marx
   6. Suicide - Durkheim
   7. Disenchantment - Weber

Week 10-11

VII. Technology and Social Stratification within Societies

A. Western Style Post-Industrial Capitalist and Mixed Market Economies: USA, Sweden, Japan
   1. Division of Labor, Hierarchy and Opportunity Structure
   2. Individual Socialization
   3. Life-Chances, Life-Styles
   4. Stratification by Gender
   5. Stratification by Race
   6. Stratification by Education and Parental Socioeconomic Status
   7. Stratification by Class: Under, Working, Middle, Upper, Leisure Classes
B. Command Economies: Soviet Union, China, Cuba

Week 12-13

VIII. The Social Organization of Technology in Contemporary Society
A. Global Village and Global Economy
   1. Producer and Consumer Nations
   2. Developing vs. Developed Nations
   3. Multinationals
   4. International Markets: Finance, Labor, Technology
B. Social Production, Consumption of Technology
C. Social Uses of Technology
D. Social Control of Technology
E. Effects of Technology on Society

Week 13-14
IX. Technological Conditions of Social Inequality in a World Economy

   A. Poor and Rich Nations
   B. Technological Control of Human Communication
   C. Technological Control of Human Conflict: Militarization, War, Global Conflict and Insecurity:
      1. Military Use of Technology
      2. Cultural Lag: Values vs. Technological Expertise

Week 14-15
X. Technological Conditions of Existence of Contemporary Society

   A. Influences of Technology on Demographic and Ecological Trends in Community Organization
   B. Influences of Technology on Natural and Manufactured Resources
   C. Influences of Technology on Culture and Human Communication
   D. Manifest and Latent Influences of Technology on Social Institutions
      1. Economic
      2. Religious
      3. Social
      4. Educational
      5. Familial
      6. Political

* may vary slightly per instructor to suit their own needs

Reviewed/revised by Diana Mincyte, Ph.D.                  Date: December, 2015