PRE 231   History and Philosophy of Technology

Instructor: Steven Millet
Summer Term 2017   **Email:** steven.millet@doane.edu
May 25th – July 22nd   Thursdays, 6:00 – 10:30 PM

        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. (3 credits)

Learning Goals and Objectives: At the end of this course, the student should

1.   Understand why we should study the history of technology.

2.   Have a general understanding of present and past philosophical thought.

3.   Understand the relation between society and technology.

4.   Be familiar with some of the popular themes facing society today.

5.   Understand current and past issues effect the moral and ethical fiber of society (and individuals).

6.   Develop their own views on philosophical topics facing today's society.

7.   Be familiar with the major technological advances that have taken place over the last 250 years.

8.   Understand how the future fits into today's issues.

Required Course Texts

Technopoly by Neil Postman, Knopf Publishing Group, 1993, ISBN-13: 978-0679745402.

Society & Technological Change, 8th Ed., by Rudi Volti, Worth Publishers, Inc, 2017, **ISBN:** 9781319058258.

Week	General Topics To Be Covered
1	Course Overview Why Study the History of Technology? How Far Has Society Advanced in the Last 250 years?
2	The History of Technology Since 1770 Philosophical Dilemmas
3	The History of Technology Since 1972
4	**MIDTERM EXAM**
5	Philosophical Thought and Technology
6	A Focus For the Ages
7	Technology of the Future
8	**FINAL EXAM** Present Projects

Methods for Assessment of Student Performance:

The student's final grade will be determined as follows:

40%   Exams (2 scheduled)
40%   Class Project
20%   Attendance and Participation

The following Grading Scale will be used:

100 – 97	A+	83 – 80	B-	63 – 60	D-
96 – 94	A	79 – 77	C+	Below 60	F
93 – 90	A-	73 – 70	C-		
89 – 87	B+	69 – 67	D+		
86 – 84	B	66 – 64	D		

Classroom Procedure:

The first 1-1½ hours of class will always be devoted to lecture. The remaining class time may be reserved for audio – visual presentations and discussion. Students will complete an in class project. More information on this will be provided the first night of class.

Academic Integrity:

The Doane Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All assignments and exams/quizzes will represent your own work. Any use of others' ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and could result in the loss of all points for that particular assignment or exam.

Use of Personal Technology During Class:

Please restrict your use of cell phones to outside of class time. The use of PDAs, Laptop Computers and any personal audio/visual devices are generally prohibited during class time unless approved by your instructor.

Students with Disabilities/Reasonable Accommodations:

Doane seeks to maintain a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities. To ensure your equal access to all educational programs, activities and services, federal law requires students with disabilities notify the college, provide documentation, and request reasonable accommodations. If you need accommodations in this course, please notify your instructor immediately so that the required documentation is filed, and that your accommodation plan is in place.

Note: The schedule outlined in this syllabus is tentative. All efforts will be made to adhere to it as closely as possible. However, your instructor reserves the right to make any changes to the schedule as needed.