

Syllabus - IDS 252 - Society, Ethics, and Technology (SET)

Liberal Learning Program, The College of New Jersey

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Office Hours: Tue and Fri, 11:30 to 1:00, and by appointment

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- 1. Purpose** - This course is designed to provide students with a framework for understanding ways in which human societies transform themselves through technological innovation and for assessing the social and ethical issues associated with technological change.
As new technologies extend human powers and enlarge social options, they also often give rise to unwanted social and environmental consequences and lead to troubling ethical dilemmas. These general themes will be developed by means of lectures, associated course readings, classroom activities/discussions, and exercises in seminar sections during which students will explore past and present developments in various fields of technology and discuss the ethical and social issues they raise
- 2. Course Description** - By considering seven major themes during this course, students will gain an understanding of the major impact technological change has had on human life throughout history. They will also have opportunities conduct an in-depth investigation into an area of personal interest relating to one of these topics. Because of the ethical implications of many decisions involving technology, ethical concepts will be reviewed and those principles utilized in resolving ethical dilemmas and completing an ethical case analysis. Complete course details may be reviewed [HERE](#).
- 3. Prerequisites**- None
- 4. Learning Goals** - This course is primarily focused on the Worldviews and Ways of Knowing goals and outcomes of the [Liberal Learning Program](#). Class activities and assignments are selected in order to help students “think critically about what it means to be human, and to explore and interpret the human place in the universe.” Students should be able to reflect on how “human beings are able to gain knowledge beyond the limits of their own personal experiences as they develop an understanding of the nature and role of technology and its impact on the environment and society.” Because many decisions involving technological issues have a major impact on human lives, students should be able to “formulate a point of view on the intersection of science, religion, politics, and other forms of culture,” as well as to develop the ability to make informed judgments concerning ethical values. In order to achieve these goals, this course is structured as described below.
- 5. Class Meeting Time / Schedule** - SET, like most other classes at TCNJ, is an "enhanced" course which means that it is officially scheduled for two 80-minute time blocks each week. The work assigned for this course is predicated on the fact that students will devote the necessary time to preparation for both their SET classes and assignments. They are expected to use the time team meetings are scheduled during the semester when their team is not meeting with me to engage in in-depth independent and team-related learning activities. This is to be in addition to their normal out-of-class work.
The "unscheduled" class time **IS NOT** to be thought of as "free time" but rather should be put to productive use in a meaningful way by each student. Assignments completed in this class should reflect how the flexible time and effort expended has resulted in increased learning and achievement. Those activities will be included when your assigned work is assessed and your final grade calculated.
It is the responsibility of each student to plan ahead and come to all classes and team meetings well prepared. Not doing so will have a negative impact on your final course grade. It is **ALWAYS** better to be early for a meeting rather than late. **Plan accordingly!**
- 6. Course Content - Major Course Themes** - Issues related to each topic below will be covered.
 1. [Historical Perspectives of Technology](#)
 2. [Social Perspectives of Technology](#)
 3. [Ethical Perspectives of Technology](#)
 4. [Computers and Artificial Intelligence](#)
 5. [Globalization and Economic Development](#)
 6. [Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering](#)
 7. [Population, Energy, and Climate Change](#)

(over)

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments - Supplemental readings may be assigned

7. **Student Assessment** - Grades will be based on a student's achievement on assignments, test/quizzes as well as class participation.

Complete details relevant to each assignment will be provided by the instructor and reviewed in class.

- A. Assignments not submitted by the due date will have their grades reduced proportional to when they are submitted, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.
- B. The instructor will provide feedback to students as they work on an assignment. Comments suggesting improvements will be made on all submitted work. Students will have an opportunity to incorporate these suggestions into their final submissions.
- C. Student grades may be reviewed with the instructor at any time during the semester upon request.
Final Grade Calculation - A = 94% to 100%, A- = 90 to 93, B+ =87 to 89, B = 83 to 86, B- = 80 to 82, C+ = 77 to 79, C = 73 to 76, C- = 70 to 72, D+ = 65 to 69, D = 60 to 64, F = 0 to 59

8. **Learning Activities** – Complete details of on each assignment are provided on-line.

A. **Design/Invention/Discovery Assignment – DID** - *This will be a team assignment on a topic related to one of the course themes. Drafts of sections of the APA-style paper and report will be submitted and returned on the established schedule. Links to the **Major Course Themes** below **MUST** be consulted when doing this assignment. A team presentation of the project will be presented to the class..... (20 %)*

B. **Ethical Case Analysis – ECA** – *This is an APA-style paper done by each student which involves developing and three weighing viable solutions to an ethical dilemma related to technology. Drafts of the paper will be submitted and returned with comments prior to its final submission at the end of the semester. (20%)*

C. **Participation / Reading quizzes..** (20 %)

D. **Midterm Exam** (20 %)

E. **Final Exam** (20 %)

9. **Required Text** - Winston, M, and Edelbach, R, (2012). **Society, Ethics, and Technology, Updated Fourth Edition**. San Francisco: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. *Royalties from sale of new copies of book through TCNJ bookstore are donated by the authors to the TCNJ Foundation and used for scholarships.*

10. **Bibliography** - There are seven pages of the SET bibliography. There is no need to print out the entire document. Think about saving some trees!

11. **Attendance policy** - <http://www.tcnj.edu/~recreg/policies/attendance.html> Attendance will be included in the "Participation" grading category.

12. **Academic integrity policy** - <http://www.tcnj.edu/~academic/policy/integrity.html>

13. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policy** - <http://www.tcnj.edu/~affirm/ada.html>

14. **Compartment** - It is expected that everyone participating in this class will treat others with civility and respect. The views and opinions of each person are welcomed and encouraged.

15. **Audio or video recording of any SET class or related activity by any means is strictly forbidden without written prior permission from Dr. Edelbach.**