

San José State University
Philosophy Department
Philosophy 110: Science, Technology and Human Values
Section 2, Fall 2015

Instructor:	Kyle Yrigoyen
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Office Hours:	M W 12-1pm or by appt.
Class Days/Time:	M W 1:30-2:45pm
Classroom:	BBC 203
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area V: Culture, Civilization & Global Understanding

Course Description

The aims, methods and worldviews of science and technology; such value issues as technological determinism, design aesthetics and moral implications of computer and other technologies. Prerequisite: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted).

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

This course examines the embodiment and expression of human values in science and technology; it looks at how technologies change over time and through the interaction of cultures; it explores how technology is now assuming an increasingly defining role in our understating of ourselves as physical, behavioural and social beings. The course draws on key works and themes from philosophy along with pertinent works from other disciplines. Through lectures, class and group discussions, and presentations, course content is examined from a philosophical perspective and will be subject to reflection and critical analysis by the students, particularly with respect to their own values and interests.

The course takes the view that science is a cultural enterprise, that technologies are cultural artifacts, and that our actions and our understanding of ourselves are shaped within such socio-technical contexts. Thus, for example, the course focuses on: 1) ways science and technology embody values from their cultures of origin; 2) how cultural expression and interaction can transpire through sciences and technologies; and, 3) the role of values in the current globalization of high technology.

The course explores the role of technology and values in art, architecture, and design. It addresses the nature of technological change in and across cultures and in the lives of the diverse individuals and groups within them. It looks at the interplay of technology and values in the mutually influencing contexts of world history, Western Civilization, American society, and the setting of Silicon Valley.

Among the philosophical issues to be covered are: 1) the role of technology in the acquisition and nature of knowledge; 2) the place of science and technology in the exercise of the human intellect and imagination; and, 3) the influence of values (particularly moral and aesthetic values) on technological practices and developments. A central concern of the course is assessing what constitutes responsible membership in an increasingly technological and interdependent global civilization.

This course enables students, in keeping with the general character of philosophy, to reflect on and critically analyze issues concerning science, technology and human values across cultures and civilizations and within the global context. Accordingly, the issues and themes above will be systematically compared and critically analyzed in this respect both in the classroom and in student assignments. Overall, the course is designed to give students an opportunity to: become acquainted with major themes and methods in the philosophical study of science, technology and human values; apply those themes and methods in the critical examination and systematic comparison of cases that differ historically and culturally; and, acquire conceptual tools useful in the life-long development of their own views and values concerning the place of technology in their communities, lives, and careers.

A word from the Academic Senate:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Required Texts/Readings

Purchase the *Philosophy 110 Course Reader* at **Maple Press, 481 E. San Carlos St.**

Additional resources are available upon request.

Classroom Protocol

Regular attendance and class participation is expected and encouraged. Please arrive early if possible: it is your responsibility to make it to class on time. Please come to class prepared with the right materials. From time to time we will discuss controversial subjects, so I expect everyone to treat one another with respect and courtesy. If you have a question, please do not speak out of turn, but raise your hand. I do not allow audio or video recording devices in class. And please, do not send or read text messages during lecture. Be sure to set your phone to silent or, preferably, just turn it off.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Normal Grade Rules apply. Here are the grade-scales:

Class participation:	10%
Commentary (500 words):	10%
Midterm:	25%
Prospectus:	-----
Position Paper (1500 words):	25%
Final exam:	30% due Dec. 15th before 5pm in FOB 201/233.
Total:	100%

A+	98-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	93-97%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	60-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	F	0-59%

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

Phil. 110: Science, Tech. & Human Values, Sec. 2 Fall 2015 Course Schedule

(Note: the schedule is subject to change with fair notice, as given during lecture. Readings TBA in class.)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 24, 26	Introductory remarks, etc. What is technology?
2	Aug. 31, Sept. 2	What is science?
3	Sept. 7, 9	Monday, September 7 Labor Day - No Lecture What are values? Space as artifact.
4	Sept. 14, 16	Time as artifact. Virtual artifacts.
5	Sept. 21, 23	Morality and Moral Values.
6	Sept. 28, 30	Moral values at work: privacy in public places. Aesthetics and aesthetic values. Commentary due Mon. Sept. 28
7	Oct. 5, 7	Aesthetic values at work: design in time and place. Technology and culture: the machine age.
8	Oct. 12, 14	Synthesis and review. Midterm. Wed. Oct. 14
9	Oct. 19, 21	Humans and robots: thinking, feeling and doing. Are we robots?
10	Oct. 26, 28	Worldview: science as cultural artifact. Technological development in Western and global contexts. Prospectus due Wed. Oct. 28 (no later, but any time before)
11	Nov. 2, 4	Technology and human nature. Second nature.
12	Nov. 9, 11	Wednesday, November 11 Veterans Day - No Lecture Systems, design and responsibility.
13	Nov. 16, 18	Technology and social practice. Social infrastructure in Japan. Position Paper due Wed. Nov. 18
14	Nov. 23, 25	Technological revolutions. The Internet in China. Nov. 26, 27 - Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed
15	Nov. 30, Dec. 2	Technological means and human ends.
16	Dec. 7	Last day of class; review for final exam. Final exam distributed.
Final Exam	Dec. 15	Tuesday, Dec. 15, due before 5pm in FOB 201/233.

Important Dates: Fall 2015

Found at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/calendar/2154/>

Tuesday, September 1

Last day to drop a class without a "W" grade

Wednesday, September 9

Last day to add Last day to submit Audit option

Last day to submit Credit/No Credit grading option

Last day to submit Instructor Drops

Friday, November 13

Last Day to withdraw - Withdrawal from the Semester Request on AARS website

Tuesday, December 8

Last day of instruction

Thursday-Friday, December 10-11 & Monday-Wednesday, December 14-16

Final Exams (Exam Schedule)

Tuesday, December 22

Fall 2015 grades viewable on MySJSU