

**San José State University**  
**Philosophy Department**  
**Philosophy 110: Science, Technology and Human Values**  
**Section 2, Fall 2018**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Kyle Yrigoyen
<b>Office Location:</b>	FOB 233
<b>Telephone:</b>	408.924.4474
<b>Email:</b>	kyle.yrigoyen@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	T R 11:00 - 12:00 PM, or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	T R 12:00 - 1:15 PM
<b>Classroom:</b>	BBC 222
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	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 and discussions, we examine the course content from a philosophical perspective in order to reflect upon and critically analyse science and technology, particularly with respect to human values and interests.

The course examines 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, 330 S 10th St. #200**

Additional reading material will be provided by the instructor.

### **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.

## Screens Policy

Unless you have a documented disability, *nothing with a screen is allowed in class*. That includes laptops and cell phones. The first time I see you with a screen out in class I'll give you a warning. The second time it may count against your final grade.

## Email Policy

I encourage you to email me with any questions or concerns you have about the course or your work in it. However, I am not on call 24 hours/day: I will respond to emails Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm. If you email me at night or on the weekend, do not expect an immediate response. Furthermore, I will not respond to emails if (1) they do not contain a salutation (e.g., "Hi Kyle,..." or "Dear Prof. Yrigoyen,...") or (2) the answer to your question is contained in this syllabus or on Canvas. You are adults. I expect you to send professional correspondence that doesn't look like a text message, and to have the wherewithal to look for answers first before asking me.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

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

Class Participation:	10%
Short Writings (500 words):	10%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Prospectus:	-----
Position Paper (1500 words):	25%
Final Exam:	30%
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

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## Phil. 110: Science, Tech. & Human Values, Sec. 2 Fall 2018 Course Schedule

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

Week	Date	Topics
1	Aug 21 - 23	Introductions
2	Aug 28 - 30	What is Philosophy?
3	Sept 4 - 6	What is Science?
4	Sept 11 - 13	What is Technology?
5	Sept 18 - 20	What are Human Values?
6	Sept 25 - 27	The Theory of Affordances
7	Oct 2 - 4	Values in Design
8	Oct 9 - 11	Synthesis and Review <b>Midterm Exam - Thursday Oct 11</b>
9	Oct 16 - 18	Values and Technology
10	Oct 23 - 25	Inventions and Historical Depth <b>Prospectus - Thursday Oct 25 (no later, but any time before)</b>
11	Oct 30 - Nov 1	The Influence of Technology
12	Nov 6 - 8	Systems, Design, and Responsibility
13	Nov 13 - 15	TBA <b>Position Paper - Thursday Nov 15</b>
14	Nov 20 - 22	TBA <b>Nov 22 - 23 - Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed</b>
15	Nov 27 - 29	TBA
16	Dec 4 - 6	Review for Final Exam; Last Week of Class
Final Exam	Dec 14	<b>Final Exam - Friday Dec 14 (TBA)</b>