

# San José State University

## College of Humanities & the Arts/Philosophy Department

PHIL 110 Science, Technology and Human Values, Section 1, Fall, 2018

### Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Lisa Bernasconi

Office Location: Faculty Office Building – FO206

Email: [lisa.bernasconi@sjsu.edu](mailto:lisa.bernasconi@sjsu.edu)

Office Hours: MW 10:30am to 11:30am

Class Days/Time: MW 3:00pm to 4:15pm

Classroom: BBC222

Prerequisites: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

SJSU Studies Category: Area V

### Course Format

In person – lecture required

### Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at [www.mrsbernasconi.com](http://www.mrsbernasconi.com). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu>. Make sure that your email address is up to date with MySJSU. This is the only email I will use to communicate with you.

### Course Description

The aims, methods and world views of science and technology; such value issues as technological determinism, design aesthetics and moral implications of computer and other technologies.

### GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. “Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from different societies.” For example, we will examine case studies on the idea of scavenging, reuse and recycling of industrial waste in different countries.
2. “Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural practices and their dynamic relation to other historical contexts.” For example, we will look at the how U.S. culture is influenced by the so-called conflict between science and religion.
3. “Explain how a culture outside the U.S. changes in response to internal and external pressures.” For example, we will read look at how simply delivering technology to non-technologically based cultures will not solve their problems without education, cultural awareness and improvements to infrastructure.

## **Textbook**

Groups of students will read and lead class discussion on books to be assigned, related to their majors or areas of interest. Online readings will be linked on class website.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

- 1 group reading/class presentation project worth 40% of semester grade
- 1 take home exam on class films and discussions worth 35% of semester grade
- 1 community service project worth 5% of semester grade
- final exam/evaluation worth 20% of semester grade

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 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.”

## **Final Evaluation**

A take home essay assignment will be distributed on the last day of class and must be returned to me by email at [lisa.bernasoni@sjsu.edu](mailto:lisa.bernasoni@sjsu.edu) by 12:00pm (noon) on Tuesday, May 22, our scheduled final exam date and time. To complete this assignment, you must have attended most or all of the book presentations.

## **Grading Information**

The in-class exam will be graded on a scale of 0 to 100. The group project will be graded on an A to F scale. The community service will be graded pass/fail. The final evaluation paper will be graded pass/fail. Your grade on all assignments will be determined by your demonstrated understanding of the concepts involved, the clarity of your arguments or explanations, and attention to details of grammar and spelling. For the group project, the entire group will receive the same grade, so everyone is responsible for every section of the completed project.

## **Determination of Grades**

A 95 to 100; A- 90 to 94; B+ 87 to 89; B 84 to 86; B- 80 to 83; C+ 77 to 79; C 74 to 76; C- 70 to 73; D 60 to 69; F 0 to 59

- There will be no extra credit assigned
- Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor and may be subject to penalty.

## **Classroom Protocol**

Silence cell phones. Use laptops and other devices only for note taking. Arrive on time. Be courteous to your fellow students. Let me know promptly if you have any concerns about the class. During films and group discussions, close your laptop, put down your phone, and be attentive. If you plan to be absent on an exam day, please let me know in advance by email.

## **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/>

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by email and/or in class announcement or website update.

W	Aug 22	Introduction
M	Aug 27	Book Presentation Planning
W	Aug 29	What is Science? What is Technology? What are Human Values? Discussion
M	Sep 3	Labor Day
W	Sep 5	Film: Galileo's Battle for the Heavens
M	Sep 10	Film continued; Galileo's Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany
W	Sep 12	Films: <i>What is Evolution? What is Natural Selection? Does the Theory of Evolution Really Matter?</i>
M	Sep 17	Film: Monkey Trial Part 1
W	Sep 19	Film continued
M	Sep 24	Film: <i>Intelligent Design on Trial</i>
W	Sep 26	Film continued
M	Oct 1	Book Progress Reports in Class
W	Oct 3	Film: <i>Y2k Family Survival Guide with Leonard Nimoy</i> [1999]
M	Oct 8	Film: <i>The Dirt on Climate Change</i>
W	Oct 10	Book Presentation and Discussion
M	Oct 15	Book Presentation and Discussion
W	Oct 17	Book Presentation and Discussion
M	Oct 22	Book Presentation and Discussion
W	Oct 24	Book Presentation and Discussion
M	Oct 29	Book Presentation and Discussion
W	Oct 31	Book Presentation and Discussion
M	Nov 5	Book Presentation and Discussion
W	Nov 7	Book Presentation and Discussion
M	Nov 12	Veteran's Day
W	Nov 14	Book Presentation and Discussion
M	Nov 19	Book Presentation and Discussion
W	Nov 21	Thanksgiving Break
M	Nov 26	Book Presentation and Discussion
W	Nov 28	Book Presentation and Discussion
M	Dec 3	Book Presentation and Discussion
W	Dec 5	Book Presentation and Discussion
M	Dec 10	Summing up; Take Home Final Exam Distributed
R	Dec 17	Final Exam due in my email by 12:15pm (noon)