

Daniel Duarte
UNIV 2350 Interdisciplinary Technology and Society
100% Online Course
Spring 2016

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Office Hrs: Online only		

This 100% online course will examine various facets of our interactions with technology as well as interactions with other members of society as we use technology. You will understand how tightly technology is interwoven in everyday life and its effects in different areas of our lives. We will examine this through a variety of readings and Discussion/message boards. You will work online, individually and in Teams to discuss and analyze a broad range of topics related to technology and society.

This course will develop your computer skills and electronic communication skills. You will learn how to communicate without meeting face to face, learn to think of technology in a very broad framework, learn to build an ethical framework concerning the use of technology, and lastly, examine how technology fits into a theoretical framework of Technological Determinism.

Participation in the many forms in which it is built into this online course is crucial to keep this class interesting for you, your learning Team of classmates and for the teaching team.

Course Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1. Enhance students' ability to assess technology

- Explore the meaning of technologies — origins, developments, and societal impact.
- Be exposed to technology uses, advantages, and disadvantages.
- Conduct research using library and electronic media sources.
- Engage in critical thinking and problem-solving regarding assessment of technology.

Goal 2. Develop and promote student teamwork

- Learn about team dynamics.
- Participate in team activities.
- Practice active and cooperative teamwork.
- Engage in critical thinking and problem-solving regarding teamwork.

Goal 3. Involve students in their community

- Students will become aware of and use community resources (UTEP, city, state).
- Explore community issues/topics/concerns.
- Encourage community outreach.
- Engage in critical thinking and problem-solving regarding community resources and issues.

Goal 4. Advance students' communication skills using technology

- Further develop master student skills, including critical writing and reading.
- Learn and practice electronic media communication skills (email, web pages, electronic presentations, etc.).
- Engage in critical thinking and problem-solving regarding the use of technology to communicate.

Goal 5. Engage students in exploring the ethics of technology.

- Engage in critical thinking and problem-solving regarding economic and environmental value versus cost of developing new technologies.
- Engage in critical thinking and problem-solving regarding social impacts of differential access to technology by social subpopulations (e.g., ethnicity, race, gender, socioeconomic status).

Course Materials

- * Daily access to reliable high speed Internet and a computer
- * All readings posted on the Blackboard site.

All the course content will be delivered via Blackboard.

- To access Blackboard go to <http://my.utep.edu/> and login using your e-mail login and password.
- You must get into the habit of checking Blackboard at least once a day to make sure you do not miss any important announcements which will be posted in the Announcement area.
- You can view the syllabus, assignments, discussion boards, your grades, and other supplemental material related to this course on Blackboard.
- Send e-mails to your fellow classmates or to me through Blackboard – always remember to include an appropriate subject line.

Required Software

You will need the following software on your computers to efficiently work in this course. If you are using a lab on campus, computers already have the necessary software.

- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Microsoft Office. Specifically Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint. **Assignments are to be submitted as “.doc” or “.docx”.** Submitting as other document types that do not open in Blackboard will remain ungraded.
- Recommended: As you begin to collaborate on your team projects you may want to consider using online software such as Google Docs <http://google.com> where you and your assigned team can create and edit documents and slide presentations *remotely* and in *real-time*.

Blackboard

The teaching team cannot provide technical support. For questions concerning the site and any technical questions or support you must contact The Help Desk at 747-5257.

Individual Discussion Question Responses

IMPORTANT - Individual Discussions are posted directly into Blackboard - **not** uploaded as a file. Length of **individual** responses will depend on the reading material and discussion questions assigned. Be sure to dissect each question as each question may have a number of components which require a response from you.

It may be helpful for you to think about writing your responses as you might a journal with an awareness that your audience consists of the teaching team and your team members. Please make sure to proofread carefully. Grammar and spelling errors may impact the grading. One writing strategy to consider is to create your entries in a word processor, which can be saved as you work on it over a period of time. When it is finished, you can simply copy and paste it into Blackboard.

I expect your discussion question responses to reflect critical thought. Whenever possible, please try to relate the course content to real-world applications from your life/work experience.

Assignments - Assignments are defined as any writing/activities that are not 'posted' directly into Blackboard.

An "Assignment" requires that you upload a file. Examples are: Team Responses, History of Technology at UTEP essay, Technological Determinism paper, and Team Project paper. These are submitted as ".doc" or ".docx"; if you use a different file type and it cannot be opened, it will not be graded.

Any discussions/assignments submitted after 11:00 pm will not be graded

Course Policies

Blackboard System:

Blackboard is our classroom! Any inappropriate behavior/comments online will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to drop you from this course if you use Blackboard to make inappropriate comments toward other students.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for further information.

Attendance Policy: Class functionality, assignments and activities rely heavily on your early understanding of expectations. You are also responsible for doing all the work every week. Exceptions will be made only for documented medical emergencies. On the occasion of your fourth (4th) missed assignment you may be dropped from the course. See the following deadline policy, as a missed deadline is equivalent to a missed assignment.

Deadline Policy: All assignments are due by 11 PM on the deadline date; Wednesdays for Individual Discussions, Friday for Quizzes. Late submissions will not be graded. NOTE: Work can be submitted before the deadline in most instances - do not wait until 10:59 pm to meet a 11:00 pm deadline. If you miss the deadline you will not receive a grade.

Peer Evaluations: Each Team will have an opportunity to evaluate the contributions of their team members for the team project at the conclusion of the semester.

Disabilities: I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities. Please contact me **during the first week** of the semester to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact The Center for Accommodations and Student Support Services in the East Union Bldg., Room 302 within the

first two weeks of classes. The Center for Accommodations and Student Support Services can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY
 Fax: (915) 747-8712 E-Mail: cass@utep.edu

<p>Quizzes</p> <p>1. You may have a quiz on the readings assigned each week. The quizzes will be available Monday morning at 8:00 am and will be due by Friday, 11:00 pm. The quizzes are timed and delivered through Blackboard.</p> <p>2. Quizzes are also assigned for the UTEP Library Research module activity (3 total).</p> <p>3. Extra credit quizzes are available through April 15, 2016 for the Technological Determinism tutorial. These quizzes are optional; points will be added to the sum of your other assigned quiz points prior to calculating the final average for your quizzes.</p>	10%
<p>Individual/Team Discussion Questions (DQ) due each Wednesday/Friday before 11:00 pm, as specified each week.</p> <p>Be sure to answer each item carefully, in detail and with supporting material from the article or from other sources (be sure to credit your sources). When you are ready to respond, your subject line is the name of the article.</p> <p>Discussion Entries: We are interested in your ideas about the readings, not a summary of the readings! We will grade your postings according to the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did you discuss the topic in a thoughtful way? 2. Is the argument discussed relevant to class discussion/readings? 3. Do you provide relevant evidence that supports your argument from your experiences and from the assigned materials? 4. Did you answer all assigned prompts and provide a challenging discussion question for your team to respond to as assigned? 	20%
<p>Participation: Participation points, when assigned, are for activities that are important for the overall functionality of the course. These are typically assignments not specifically related to "Technology and Society" materials. Example: Week 1 My Bio activity and response, JobMine assignment, Research Topic Proposal, GoogleDocs PowerPoint assignment.</p>	15%
<p>Technological Determinism Paper The Technological Determinism paper is written independently by each student to apply the main theoretical concept of technology and society to the materials covered in the course. You will be provided a tutorial and materials in order to develop understanding of the theory of determinism. You will also be able to take extra credit quizzes based on the tutorial. Begin this assignment and submit Week 12 online in Blackboard.</p>	25%

<p>Team Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Your Individual Research Worksheet Form <input type="checkbox"/> Team Research Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Powerpoint Presentation <p>Each team will create a Powerpoint presentation on a topic related to technology and society as it affects us in the El Paso region. Along with this presentation your learning team MUST also include a ten page paper in MLA format.</p> <p>You can select any technological or societal issue on the border and look at how technological solutions have been created to help solve problems. You must also look at both sides of the issues and present the good, the bad and the ugly sides of technology. Issues discussed previously have included E-money, Government surveillance and homeland security, etc. Again these presentations must be a critical look at technology and the topics provided. You MUST have a bibliography (MLA format) at the conclusion of your paper. You must have a minimum of 10 references to include journals, books, newspapers, etc.</p> <p>The 10 page requirement is the minimum requirement - it may be as long as needed to cover the subject matter. Your bibliography page is NOT part of the page count, nor is your cover page.</p>	30%
TOTAL	100%

A= 90% + B= 80 - 89% C=70 - 79% D=60 - 69% F=59% or below

	<p>Scheduled Assignments - This course syllabus and reading list may be subject to changes as circumstances warrant. Any such changes will be announced in advance to the class.</p>
<p>Week 1 January 19, 2016</p>	<p>1. Read all items in the "Start Here" section on the home page.</p> <p>2. Week 1 section: Introductions and getting familiar with your team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enter and submit your Team Member Contact Information in Blackboard by Wednesday 11:00 pm. <input type="checkbox"/> Submit your Bio by Wednesday 11:00 pm in Blackboard Discussion area; <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: login to Blackboard and read the Bio from each of your team members, respond to their post by Friday 11:00 pm. <input type="checkbox"/> Syllabus quiz by Friday in Blackboard before 11:00 pm
<p>Week 2 January 25, 2016</p>	<p>Online Learning</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Watch video: Welcome to the Brave New World of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) <input type="checkbox"/> Read: Are the Costs of "Free" Too High in Online Education? <input type="checkbox"/> Read: Duke U.'s Undergraduate Faculty Derails Plan for Online Courses for Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Read: MOOC Interrupted: Top 10 Reasons Our Readers Didn't Finish a Massive Open Online Course <p>Description: This assignment introduces you to concepts and current trends in online learning and to orient you to the framework of trending course delivery methods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Post your Individual Discussion Response before Wednesday 11:00 pm <input type="checkbox"/> Post your Team Discussion Response by Friday 11:00 pm. <input type="checkbox"/> Take quiz by Friday 11:00 pm
<p>Week 3 February 1, 2016</p> <p>February 3, 2016 Census Day</p>	<p>Library Week: Begin reviewing materials on Monday, through both the UTEP library links in Blackboard, Week 3 and in the assignment links provided. Deadlines this week are Wednesday and Friday</p> <p>Before Wednesday Complete Plagiarism Awareness activities from UTEP Library; post your plagiarism statement in Blackboard by Wednesday 11:00 pm</p> <p>Complete MLA Library activity and review MLA samples in Blackboard; take MLA quiz by Wednesday 11:00 pm</p> <p>Before Friday Complete 3 UTEP library research modules and take quiz for each module.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> All three Quiz modules are due Friday 11:00 pm; The quizzes are taken through Blackboard and not the Library Website.
<p>Week 4 February 8, 2016</p>	<p>Research Project Discussion Topic Proposal + Individual Research Worksheet Team Contract and Peer Evaluation (participation grade)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: Read Team Project topics and guidelines. Discuss team interests and decide on a topic. Your team has a discussion link in your team section of Blackboard for this assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, before 11:00 pm: Submit Proposal abstract - one person from each team will submit a paragraph - a 300 word abstract on what the team is interested in researching based on the research project guidelines provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Friday before 11:00 pm: Post Peer Evaluation sheet based on your experiences working in your team this week. <p>week 4, continued next page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Begin team contract - your Peer Leader will monitor and assist with completion; to be submitted via online form. Deadline is pending and will be announced in Blackboard. <input type="checkbox"/> Upon topic approval, begin Individual Research Worksheet sent to you

	<p>in Blackboard e-mail. Each person will do their own research and submit sources in MLA format on this worksheet. IMPORTANT - this assignment is part of your Team Project grade.</p>
<p>Week 5 & 6 February 15, 2016</p>	<p>History of Technology and Society, Part I</p> <p>Description: You will consider whether “technology = progress” by comparing technology as experienced by writer Mark Twain and compare it to your own experiences in “modern times.” Consumer technology will be examined specifically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read First Writing Machines - Mark Twain <input type="checkbox"/> Read Technology the Emergence of a Hazardous Concept - Leo Marx <input type="checkbox"/> Read From Pencils to Pixels - Dennis Baron <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take quiz by Friday 11:00 pm <input type="checkbox"/> Post your Individual Discussion Response by Friday 11:00 pm
<p>Week 6 February 22, 2016</p>	<p>History of Technology and Society, Part II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Team Discussion response due Friday 11:00 pm. Review the Individual Discussion responses from the <u>Week 4 assignment</u> and reply to 3 members of your team. Follow the format provided for the response. <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss and submit Team Contract - Contract will require that team members discuss and select roles for each member in the team based on your interactions thus far in the semester.
<p>Week 7 February 29, 2016</p>	<p>Technology at UTEP</p> <p>Read “Layers of History at the University of Texas at El Paso” and begin two-page writing assignment (MLA format) due this Friday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> before Friday 11:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Writing Assignment on History of Technology at UTEP is due (MLA Format) <p style="text-align: center;">SPRING BREAK MARCH 7 - MARCH 11</p>
<p>Week 8 March 14, 2016</p>	<p>Using Technology on Campus - JobMine Resume Assignment, Part I</p> <p>Description: You will develop a professional resume with the assistance of various sources on the UTEP campus - Although these resources are readily accessible in person - they are equally accessible online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review resume samples ● Watch video on Accomplishment Statements ● Post your accomplishment statements in Blackboard due before

	<p>Wednesday, 11:00 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peer review/feedback of your teammates statements due before Friday 11:00 pm <p>Resume quiz before Friday 11:00 pm.</p>
<p>Week 9 March 21, 2016</p>	<p>Using Technology on Campus - JobMine Resume Assignment, Part II (simulation activity: Applying for an online job)</p> <p>After developing your job resume, you will submit your resume to UTEPs JobMine website. You may request a resume review through the UTEP Career Center at the conclusion of this activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use JobMine to select a job and post discussion before Wednesday, 11:00 pm <input type="checkbox"/> Upload your resume to JobMine and "Apply" to specified job number created for this course before Friday 5:00 pm
<p>Week 10 March 28, 2016</p> <p>April 1, 2016 Drop Deadline</p>	<p>Avoid Identity Theft</p> <p>Description: You will learn how pervasive identity theft has become in our society and identify the role technology plays. You will look at ways to defend and protect your identity by using credit reports and applying defensive strategies and recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Monday - Request a free credit report as instructed in the video; you will need to have one in your possession in order to complete the discussion questions this week. <input type="checkbox"/> before Friday 11:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> "Avoid Identity Theft" quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Post individual response for "Avoid Identity Theft"
<p>Week 11 April 4, 2016</p>	<p>Read Edward Tufte: "PowerPoint is Evil" (No discussion questions assigned)</p> <p>Monday "Meet" with your team online using GoogleDocs. Each member will contribute to this presentation in GoogleDocs. You will need to distribute slide assignments evenly among active, participating team members before you begin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> before Friday 11:00 pm deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Editing of GoogleDocs presentation ends <input type="checkbox"/> "PowerPoint is Evil" quiz <p>As a result of the drop deadline, your team may be smaller; report any changes or updates to the team contract to your Peer Leader this week.</p>
<p>Week 12 April 11, 2016</p>	<p>Finalize your Technological Determinism Paper and submit, before Friday, 12:00 noon of this week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take Extra Credit quizzes; quiz availability ends April 15, 2016
<p>Week 13 April 18, 2016</p>	<p>Counter the Cybernetic WalMart Effect</p>

	<p>Description: This assignment examines the role of taxation on our economy and on technology. You will consider how taxation of new technologies and commerce may lead to consequences, intended or unintended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> before Wednesday 11:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Post individual Discussion Response for Cybernetic WalMart Effect <input type="checkbox"/> before Friday 11:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> submit compilation of your team responses <input type="checkbox"/> Take quiz on Counter the Cybernetic WalMart Effect
<p>Week 14 April 25, 2016</p>	<p>Read - "You Can Always Look it up - or Can You?"</p> <p>Description: You will examine cognitive learning and how assumptions are made about how technology allows us to learn and process material that we interact with. You will consider whether technology is being used to adapt to the way we think and use our brain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Post individual response for "You can always look it up" by Wednesday 11:00pm. <input type="checkbox"/> before Friday 11:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> submit compilation of your team responses <input type="checkbox"/> take "You Can Always Look it up - or Can You?" quiz
<p>Week 15 May 2</p>	<p>Final Project Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit Final Research Project paper and PowerPoint before Thursday, May 5 at 12:00 noon; ● Submit team member evaluation - this is your opportunity to rate the contributions of each team member as it pertains to the completion of the research project.