Instructor: James Owens, BS, MA, LLPC
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Course Website: http://www.lcc.edu/personal/owensj

Office Hours: By appointment.

Required Texts:


Course Description: In this course students will inquire into the profound and subtle ways technology has changed human life by looking at both the natural and human environments. Students will wrestle with the complex and too-little-asked question of what is meant by technological progress. This course is offered out of the belief that our society has not yet learned to direct its technology instead of letting its technology direct it.

Course Outcomes: The student will examine the influence of technology on society, giving consideration to its historical, social, and philosophical perspectives. The student will also examine the effects of technology on the human condition. The course will engage the student in an active critical evaluation of various perspectives and theories. The course will seek to expand the student’s understanding of technology and of how technology affects the human condition. The course will help the student improve her/his proficiency in critically evaluating the place of technology in the 21st century. The course will encourage the student to “prophetically” project where technology will take human beings as the new millennium opens before us and will encourage the student to think through appropriate responses to technology and its effects.

By the end of the semester the student should be able to:

- Propound the various historical perspectives on technology.
- Propound the various social perspectives on technology.
- Propound the various philosophical/ethical perspectives on technology.
- Critically assess various technologies that are currently shaping the human condition.
- Outline the historical development of technology.
- Explain some of the characteristics of modern technology.
- Describe how technology affects economies and human rights.
- Offer a number of ways whereby technology can be controlled.
- Offer a number of directions that technology can take in the new millennium.
- Espouse a number of ways that technology is beneficial to the human condition.
**Course Strategies:** This professor strongly believes in learning by doing, therefore you will be expected to be an **ACTIVE** student in this course; the learning outcomes largely rely on your ability to personally engage the topics of the course.

**Late assignments:** Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made, or a medical emergency has occurred.

**Grading:** Students will be expected to attend and participate in all scheduled meetings, read the required materials, and complete assignments. The responsibility for determining grades rests with the instructor and reflects the student’s achievement of the academic goals set for each course. Grades are recorded at the close of each semester in the following terms:

Grades will be based on the following scale: Grade Percent (A+ 100-99%) (A 98-97%) (A- 96-94%) (B+ 93-91%) (B 90-88%) (B- 87-85%) (C+ 84-82%) (C 81-79%) (C- 78-76%) (D+ 75-73%) (D 72-70%) (D- 69-67%) (E 66-00%)

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:**
Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and if demonstrated will result in failure of the course. Academic dishonesty is unethical behavior which violates the standards of scholarly conduct. It includes such behaviors as cheating on assignments or examinations and plagiarism. **Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. It includes, but is not limited to, verbatim use of a quote without quotation marks and adequate documentation**, submission of a paper prepared by another person as one's own work, using the ideas, facts, words, or data of someone else and claiming them as your own, or not documenting ideas, facts, words, or data gathered during research.

**Non-Discrimination and Academic Accommodations Policy:**
It is the policy of Siena Heights University not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, religion, or sexual orientation, in the admission or access to or treatment in any university programs and activities or any aspects of employment by the university. To maintain the University’s commitment to the policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability and to ensure the university’s continuing compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Siena Heights University has designated the Director of Human Resources as the coordinator of university compliance.

Siena Heights University is committed to providing a learning environment that benefits all students. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 all reasonable accommodations will be made to meet the documented needs of students. The Siena Accommodations Policy for Students with Disabilities requires a student to provide written documentation of his/her disability to the Academic Advising Office. If you require special accommodations, it is your responsibility to notify each instructor during the first two weeks of the semester. In accordance with University policy and the equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may be eligible for as a student with a disability. Please contact me for an appointment to discuss possible accommodations. Students must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities for disability verification and determination of reasonable accommodations. Requests for accommodations must be done in a timely manner and are not retroactive.
Assignments:

**Attendance**  
Due: Weekly  
Attendance is required. Up to one missed class may be excused for mitigating circumstances; a second will result in the final grade being dropped a full letter. A third will result in failure of the course.

**Notes**  
Due: Weekly  
Write or type 1-2 pages of notes taken while reading the assigned week’s chapters. These notes should clearly demonstrate the student has read the chapter. Notes will be worth 10 points per chapter.

**Individual Essays**  
Due: Weekly  
Each student will write a reflective-type essay/journal following each class meeting (except the last) based on the chapter readings and class discussions. Essays will be graded according to the degree of complexity in thoughtfulness, as well as the use of proper grammar and spelling. Each of the essays is worth 15 points.

**Group Essays**  
Due: Varies  
Students will complete in-class group essays. Small group members will discuss concepts presented from the textbook and lectures. Students will then report the fruits of these discussions in written essay format. Essays will be graded according to the degree of complexity in thoughtfulness, the ability to articulately report consensus or non-consensus conclusions or beliefs, as well as the use of proper grammar and spelling. Each of the essays is worth 15 points.

**Film Paper/Discussion**  
Due: 7th Week.  
Each student will watch a film where technology plays an important role in the plot. Students will then critically interact with the film by writing a 5 page paper dealing with the following major concerns (as well as other issues the student wishes to address in the paper): 1) how does the film present technology, 2) how does the film portray the effects of technology on the human condition, and 3) what the student thinks could be done to address the technological problems presented in the film. This paper is due the 7th week of the course. Students will show a 10-minute maximum clip from the film in class, and ask classmates 3-4 leading questions relating to the concepts and criticisms covered in the paper. The paper will be worth 40 points, showing a film clip and asking leading questions for a discussion not longer than 15 minutes will be worth 15 points.

**Weekly Schedule**

- **Week 1** Intro to the course, philosophy. DUE: Nothing.
- **Week 2** Origins of Western Philosophy, 3 Big Branches. DUE: Chapter 1
- **Week 3** Morality, Mindwalk. DUE: Chapter 2
- **Week 4** Science & Religion, Mechanistic & Systemic Thinking. DUE: Chapter 3
- **Week 5** Ethical Dilemmas. DUE: Chapter 4
- **Week 6** Museum Field Trip. DUE: Chapter 5
- **Week 7** Review Final Papers. DUE: Final Papers and Chapter 6
- **Week 8** Review Final Papers. DUE: Chapter 7