

ARTS2877

Technologies, Culture, Society

Term 2, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

This course uses anthropological and sociological approaches to analyse the effects of technologies on human life. You will study the lived experience of technology in different cultural contexts, exploring such topics as biotechnologies, communications technologies, robotics, and energy policies. In this way, you will learn to examine the shifting boundaries between the human and non-human, and the natural and artificial. At the conclusion of the course, you will have developed an understanding of the assumptions about humanity that underpin central debates within the study of technology.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge base of Sociology and Anthropology, with particular focus on debates and concepts relevant to the study of technology and culture
2. Demonstrate skill in close reading of ethnographic texts
3. Demonstrate research skills in gathering, classifying and communicating information about technology, including independent critical thinking.
4. Work as an independent and cooperative learner
5. Use skills associated with scholarly inquiry, including those related to conceptual coherence and written expression

Teaching Strategies

Rationale for Content and Teaching Approach

ARTS2877 is based on the following pedagogic principles:

- Participate in open discussions of the issues arising from the study of technology, culture, and society
- Develop skills in reasoning and general analysis of arguments
- Critically analyse texts and work with concepts formulated in relation to the weekly topics
- Build a learning community among students

Teaching and Learning Strategies

The teaching style in the 2-hour lecture is interactive and represents a departure from the traditional, delivery model of teaching, which involves the transmission of knowledge from the lecturer. This interactive model focuses on developing students' understanding of the subject matter with the goal of helping students develop their own views. Lectures consist of a variety of interactive activities that include discussion of the readings and class-wide debates.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Workbook	50%	Various dates - see below	1, 2
2. Essay	50%	09/08/2022 04:00 PM	3, 4, 5

Assessment 1: Workbook

Due date: Various dates - see below

Workbook consists of reflections on course readings and content. Feedback within 10 working days of submission.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

The workbook assessment provides you with an opportunity to reflect on key ideas, concepts and/or theories from course readings and to consider how they can help make sense of the world around you. The aim is to assess your comprehension of these ideas/concepts/theories, and your ability to engage with and interpret course readings.

You are required to submit four workbook entries throughout the course. You have a degree of choice regarding which weeks/readings your entries will cover. However, it is expected that you will submit one workbook entry every two weeks (flexibility week and week 10 are excluded). The entries are due on the Monday immediately following the class on your chosen topic (e.g. if you chose to submit an entry on the reading from week 2, it will be due on the Monday of week three).

In each entry, you should provide two things:

1. a summary of the idea, concept or argument from the text that you are reflecting on;
2. a reflection on how this idea, concept or argument applies to the world around you. This could include using a concept/idea/theory to reflect on your own experience with a specific technological artefact or technologies more generally. It could also include using a concept/idea/theory to reflect on something you have read about in the media or in an academic journal article (eg development or impact of a new technology).

Assessment 2: Essay

Assessment length: 2000

Due date: 09/08/2022 04:00 PM

Essay provides an opportunity undertake in-depth research on a specific topic, or develop issues raised in the lectures and readings. Feedback within 10 working days of submission.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

The aim of the essay assignment is to develop and demonstrate your capacity to think critically about technology and its place in the social world. This will be an *argumentative* essay, meaning that you will be expected to take a stance on (ie advance an argument about) a specific question or issue related to technology, using concepts, theories and/or empirical insights derived course material and your own further research. You will be assessed on the quality and persuasiveness of your argument, including how well you draw on course concepts and evidence to make your case, as well as your understanding of the topic and concepts that you chose to engage with.

You will be provided with a set of essay questions in the flexibility week (week 6) to help guide your choice of essay topic, although it will be up to you to determine your argument. We will also dedicate much of week 10's lecture and tutorial to learning the principles of argumentative essay writing and workshopping your arguments.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
O week: 23 May - 27 May		
Week 1: 30 May - 3 June	Topic	Introduction: what is technology?
Week 2: 6 June - 10 June	Topic	Politicising technology: technology, power and politics
Week 3: 13 June - 17 June	Topic	Modernity and technological progress
Week 4: 20 June - 24 June	Topic	Modernity and technological dystopia
Week 5: 27 June - 1 July	Topic	Technology, race and First Nations peoples
Week 6: 4 July - 8 July	Topic	Flexibility week - no classes
Week 7: 11 July - 15 July	Topic	Technology and social inequality
Week 8: 18 July - 22 July	Topic	Technology, gender and the body
Week 9: 25 July - 29 July	Topic	Technology and surveillance
Week 10: 1 August - 5 August	Topic	Course review and the principles of argumentative essay writing

Resources

Recommended Resources

The University of New South Wales is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus. Information is available at <http://www.healthservices.unsw.edu.au/content/mental-health>

Those students requiring support for essay writing can contact me and/or make an appointment with Learning Centre staff.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library has [the ELISE tool](#) available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study. Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Image Credit

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