

Fall 2021

STS 201-H01: Understanding Technological Society

Narendra-Neel Khichi

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hum-syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Khichi, Narendra-Neel, "STS 201-H01: Understanding Technological Society" (2021). *Humanities Syllabi*. 511.

<https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hum-syllabi/511>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the NJIT Syllabi at Digital Commons @ NJIT. It has been accepted for inclusion in Humanities Syllabi by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ NJIT. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@njit.edu.

STS 201 Understanding Technological Society/Intro STS
Honors
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Fall 2021

Instructor: Dr. Neel Khichi

Office: Cullimore 314

Office Hours:

Mondays: 7:45am-8:15am & 11:30am-12:30pm

Tuesdays: 11:30am-12:30pm

Wednesdays: 7:45am-8:15am

by appointment

Email: nkhichi@njit.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course serves as an introduction to the social sciences: anthropology, communication, economics, sociology, geography, history, political science, sustainability, and psychology and its influence on technology, society, and technological society. The course introduces ideas, theories, and issues in the various subject areas that appear in the social sciences and evaluates the relationship between technology and society. Furthermore, the course analyzes and evaluates the impact these issues have in our rapidly evolving and changing social, cultural, and technological society. Much of the course focuses on technology and its role in addressing and improving local, national, and global issues, as well as, its effect and relationship with the global ecological system and sustainability. This course evaluates the role of the individual and how these issues are influential on a local, regional, national, and global scale in the twenty-first century. ? Is technology and the digital world changing what it means to be human? How does technology and the digital world shape our behavior, thoughts, words, and actions? We will also address, discuss, and evaluate our relationship with technology and the digital world during the global pandemic**

*(**the conversations involving the pandemic are exploratory, ongoing, and organic in nature. As this is new territory for all of us and due to the ever changing nature of our social, cultural, and global climate, as well as data and statistics, during the pandemic, the information, readings, and data are strictly for exploratory, conversational, inquisitive discussions, and an exchange of ideas and thoughts only).*

Course Objectives:

- a. To introduce the basic subject areas of the social sciences and its relationship to technology, society, and technological society.
- b. To develop an understanding for the social sciences, its impact on human behavior, the global society and in the various fields in and out of the social sciences, specifically technology and society.
- c. To analyze technology-socially, culturally, and psychologically and the role it plays in our constantly evolving culture and society.
- d. To analyze, evaluate, and critique society and societal events with deeper significance and understanding
- e. To analyze, evaluate, and critique social events in relation to their place as an individual and as a member of the global community and technological society
- f. To use the examination of the social sciences to gain a better understanding of society and groups in which we all live, as well as, our technological society
- g. To call attention to and raise awareness that our individual life is bound to and shaped by our social and cultural environment
- h. To analyze, critique, and evaluate such social phenomena as: technological advances, culture, social dynamics, socialization, deviance, social stratification, gender, racial/ethnic relations, the impact of science, the role of religion and politics, the influence of education and positive and negative uses of power.
- i. To focus on the environment and technology, paying special attention to the human impact on the environment
- j. To demonstrate content area knowledge of the social sciences
- k. To employ quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques relevant to identified content

Required Textbooks: Society: the Basics 15th Edition (eBook) by John Macionis(c)2019Pearson ISBN 9780134711409 ****we will discuss in the textbook prior to your purchase***Online articles and PDFs

Recommended Reading:***excerpts from these texts will be used as supplemental reading in addition to the notes, texts, and articles on Canvas***

McDonaldization of Society by George Ritzer;
SuperConnected by Mary Chayko
Race, Gender, and Society by Rothenberg

GRADING POLICY

Syllabus Overview	50 points
Individual Presentation	50 points
Essay #1/Discussion #1 Combo	100 points
Essay #2/Discussion #2 Combo	100 points
Essay #3/Discussion #3 Combo	100 points
Quiz #1	100 points
Quiz #2	100 points
Quiz #3	100 points
Quiz #4 (cumulative)	200 points
=====	
Total Point Value	900 points

GRADING SCALE:

- 100-90.....A
- 89-87.....B+
- 86-80.....B
- 79-77.....C+
- 76-70.....C
- 69-65.....D
- 65 <.....F

Communication:

It is extremely important you keep in touch with me (via email or schedule an office hour meeting) to inform me of any issues that come up. Emailing me mid-way through the semester is not enough. If you have any specific personal issues that prevents you from participating in the course, I will need documentation from the Dean of Students. You have access to email through numerous devices. It is your responsibility to keep me informed for any reason on why you cannot/have not participated.

I do not give extra credit. Nor do I respond to emails or questions that ask, "Is there anything I can do to 'get an A' or to 'bump up my grade a few extra points?' Please do not attempt to send me emails of this nature.

Students are responsible to keep track of their own grades, what work they owe, and what they are missing. Please note where an 'A' begins and where a 'B+' begins and ends. Any issue with a grade for a specific quiz or assignment must be addressed via email, with screenshots, and/or specific issue NO MORE than one week after the quiz, reader response, or assignment is administered. Anything issue after a week will not be considered and your grade will remain as is. Any issue with a missed assignment must be addressed within one week after the assignment in due otherwise a "O" will be entered for the grade and will remain as is. This is the policy of the course. Furthermore, Canvas allows me to see your online activity in regards to this course. It allows me to see what articles you read, how

long you read them for, if you looked at the notes, when you opened the quizzes, and when they are closed. Please understand that Canvas maintains a detail track record of your use and interaction with the course materials. So I see/have/ and maintain a full transcript of your activity online in this course. Please be aware that before any conversation occurs between you and I, I will have this detailed activity report in front of me. Please also understand that should there be any “technical” issues, I am provided and have access to detailed reports that inform me of any issues Canvas has.

Academic Integrity:

“Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu

Students are expected to read and understand NJIT’s academic integrity policy. Members of the NJIT community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors.

There is a zero tolerance policy on any and all forms of cheating.

Student’s that require special accommodations Disabilities Service Policy

Students with disabilities who are otherwise qualified and are college able will receive reasonable accommodations to support their special needs. Students must self-identify to the Disabilities Services office to qualify to receive services. NJIT is in full compliance with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. New Jersey Institute of Technology is committed to making students with disabilities full participants in its academic and other programs, services and activities through the provision of reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. The Coordinator of Student Disability Services will coordinate the provision of appropriate accommodations and/or academic adjustments on a case-by-case basis for students with disabilities who identify themselves, provide adequate documentation of their disability and need for accommodation, request services and complete appropriate forms. Appropriate accommodations are provided at no cost to the student.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Dr. Phyllis Bolling, Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS), Campbell Hall, (entry level), room 205, (973) 596-3420.

Personal Conflicts/Issues

Should you have any personal issues or conflicts that prevent you from participation in the online course, miss assignments, or do not log onto the course for an extended period of time- by extended period of time I define as more than two weeks- you must provide me with documentation from the Dean of Students. Otherwise, you will not be allowed to make up the work you miss. In addition, anything that requires discussion must be done during office hours. If you are not engaged with the class for weeks- simply writing me an email stating "I've been really sick and couldn't do my work" is not a viable excuse.

Email

Please check your NJIT email regularly. Any announcements, reminders, or notifications are sent via Canvas directly to your NJIT email account. Also note I respond to emails relatively quickly during the week between the hours of 8am and 12pm. Please be patient and do not send multiple emails with the same information or the same question. Any email sent after 1:00pm will be responded to the next day. Any email sent on Fridays will be responded to on Monday morning.

Graded Assignments:**Quizzes**

There are 4 timed quizzes. Dates and details are provided in the syllabus. No make ups for quizzes are provided unless we discuss PRIOR to the quiz.

Syllabus Overview Agreement:

50 points

Individual Presentation:

Each will present for 30 minutes on a topic of their choice from the week's content. You should plan for a 15 minute presentation and a 15 minute question and answer portion.

Discussion Forum/Essay #1, #2, and #3:

There is a discussion/essay combo due at the end of the first 3 weeks of the session. They are worth 100 points.

Essay/Discussion Forum Rubric:

45-50: You have posted at least 6x on the forum. Your initial post (essay) provides a minimum of five examples, provides thoughtful and detailed analysis. The essay ties in both the student's views and supports those views the sources and data from the course content. The assignment is structured and organized well, there is a strong fluid writing style, and there is an originality in style and presentation. There is a clear connection and relationship among the examples. Your other posts should reply to at least 5 different students. Each reply post is a minimum of 100 words. You stay on topic. You comment on other student's views. You offer evidence in the form of an article, a quote, in which you put in bold in your references.

40-44: You have posted 5x on the forum. Your initial essay provides four examples, provides thoughtful and detailed analysis. The assignment ties in some student's views and supports those views with some of the sources and data from the course content. The assignment has good structure and organization with some minor issues in writing style.

The paper does not take any creative or original risks. There is somewhat of a relationship between the examples. Your other posts should reply to at least 4 different students. Each reply post is a minimum of 100 words. You stay on topic. You comment on other student's views. You offer evidence in the form of an article, a quote, in which you put in bold in your posts.

35-39: You posted 4x in the forum. Your initial essay provides three examples, but is weak on the analysis. It ties in very little of the student's views and provides minimal support from the sources and the data. Some structural and organizational issues are present. The assignment meets the bare minimum requirements of the assignment. It is unclear if a relationship exists between the examples and the topics. Your other post should reply to at least 3 students. Each reply post is a minimum of 100 words. Posts appear rushed. Very little, if any, evidence is offered.

30-34: You posted 3x in the forum. Your essay provides three examples or less, but is weak on the analysis. It ties in very little of the student's views and provides minimal support from the sources and the data. Some structural and organizational issues are present. The assignment meets the bare minimum requirements of the assignment. It is unclear if a relationship exists between the examples and the topics.

You only replied to two student. Posts appear rushed. No evidence is offered. Work is unacceptable and not on par with college level work.

25-29: You posted 2x in the forum, your initial post, and replied to one student.

10: You only submitted an initial post. Work is unacceptable and not on par with college level work.

0: You did not post at all.

=====
 This will be a fun, interesting course and an overall strong learning experience for you. Should you have any questions or any difficulty with anything, please do not hesitate to contact me via email. I am always available via email or during my office hours. Please give me at least 24 hours to respond to your email. If you've made it this far into the syllabus congrats and well done. Please post in the Syllabus Confirmation forum on Canvas by copying and pasting the following: "I have read, understood, and will abide by the expectations of the course. I have viewed the audio/visual syllabus in its entirety and understand how the class functions." If you do this, before Friday, September 10th, 2021 @1159pm will be given a grade of 50/50. Anything posted from September 11-12th will be given a grade of 25/50. Anything posted September 13th, 2021 and after is automatically a 0. Unless you state otherwise in the post it is understood that you have read this completely and agree to the conditions in this syllabus.
 =====

Week	Topics/Readings	Assignments
Week 0 (September 1 and 2)	First Day of Classes	READ the Syllabus
Week 1 (September 6-10)	Chapter 1 Chapter 1: What is the Sociological Perspective and Technology's	

	<p>Impact on the Sociological Perspective?</p> <p>1.1 Explain how the sociological perspective helps us understand that society shapes our individual lives.</p> <p>1.2 Identify the advantages of sociological thinking for developing public policy, for encouraging personal growth, and for advancing in a career.</p> <p>1.3 Summarize sociology’s major theoretical approaches.</p>	
Week 2 (September 13-17)	<p>Chapter 2 Chapter 2: Culture and Technology</p> <p>2.1 Explain the development of culture as a human strategy for survival.</p> <p>2.2 Identify common elements of culture. 2.3 Analyze how a society’s level of technology shapes its culture</p>	
Week 3 (September 20-24)	<p>Chapter 3</p> <p>3.1 Describe how social interaction is the foundation of</p>	<p>Essay/Discussion #1</p> <p>Individual Presentation</p>

	<p>personality.</p> <p>3.2 Explain six major theories of socialization.</p> <p>3.3 Analyze how the family, school, peer groups, and the mass media guide the socialization process.</p>	
Week 4 (September 27-October 1)	(review of Chapters 1-3)	Individual Presentation QUIZ #1
Week 5 (October 4-8)	<p>Chapter 4</p> <p>Chapter 4: Social Interaction in Everyday Life and Technology</p> <p>4.1 Explain how social structure helps us to make sense of everyday situations.</p> <p>4.2 State the importance of status to social organization.</p> <p>4.3 State the importance of role to social organization.</p> <p>4.4 Describe how we socially construct reality.</p>	Individual Presentation
Week 6 (October 11-15)	Chapter 5	Individual Presentation

	<p>Chapter 5: Mass Media and Social Media</p> <p>5.1 Explain the meanings of three key concepts: media, mass media, and social media.</p> <p>5.2 Investigate the issue of media bias and the need for media literacy.</p> <p>5.3 Describe the historical evolution of mass media and social media.</p> <p>5.4 Explore how the use of social media affects individuals.</p> <p>5.5 Assess how the use of social media may affect social relationships.</p> <p>5.6 Identify several effects of social media on society</p>	
<p>Week 7 (October 18-22)</p>	<p>Chapter 14</p> <p>Chapter 14: Family, Religion, and Technology</p> <p>14.1 Understand families and how they differ around the world.</p> <p>14.2 Analyze the</p>	<p>Essay/Discussion #2 Individual Presentation</p>

	<p>diversity of family life over the life course.</p> <p>14.3 Analyze the importance of divorce, - remarriage, and various family forms.</p> <p>14.4 Apply sociology's major theories to religion.</p> <p>14.5 Discuss the links between religion and social change</p>	
Week 8 (October 25-29)	(review of Chapters 4-6)	Individual Presentation QUIZ #2
Week 9 (November 1-5)	<p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7: Sexuality, Society and Technology</p> <p>7.1 Describe how sexuality is both a biological and a cultural issue.</p> <p>7.2 Explain changes in sexual attitudes in the United States.</p> <p>7.3 Analyze factors that shape sexual orientation.</p> <p>7.4 Discuss several current controversies involving sexuality</p>	Individual Presentation
Week 10 (November 8-12)	Chapter 11	Individual Presentation

	<p>Chapter 11: Gender and Technology</p> <p>11.1 Describe the ways in which society creates gender stratification.</p> <p>11.2 Explain the importance of gender to - socialization.</p> <p>11.3 Analyze the extent of gender inequality in various social institutions. 11.4 Apply sociology's major theories to gender stratification.</p> <p>11.5 Contrast liberal, socialist, and radical feminism</p>	
<p>Week 11 (November 15-19)</p>	<p>Chapter 12</p> <p>Chapter 12: Race, Ethnicity, and Technology</p> <p>12.1 Explain the social construction of race and ethnicity.</p> <p>12.2 Describe the extent and causes of prejudice.</p> <p>12.3 Distinguish discrimination from prejudice.</p> <p>12.4 Identify examples</p>	<p>Essay/Discussion #3</p> <p>Individual Presentation</p>

	of pluralism, assimilation, segregation, and genocide.	
Week 12 (November 22-26)	Thanksgiving Recess	Quiz #3
Week 13 (November 29-Dec 3)	<p>Cyberpsychology and McDonaldization:</p> <p>What is McDonaldization? Who are the “Post Millennials, Generation Z, and the App Generation?” What is our Superconnected present and future?</p>	<p>Wrapping up the semester and review.</p> <p>Individual Presentation</p>
Week 14 (December 6-10)	Last Week of Classes Quiz #4 on the last day of class	QUIZ #4
Week 15 & 16 (December 13-21)	Reading day 1 and 2 Final exams begin December 15th and end December 21st	