

Fall 2023

## STS-201 (H01): Understanding Technological Society- Honors

Narendra-Neel Khichi

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**New Jersey Institute of Technology**  
**STS 201 Understanding Technological Society-HONORS**  
**FALL 2023**  
H01 95994

**TR 1000am-1120am, CKB 207**

**New Jersey Institute of Technology**  
**Instructor:** Dr. Narendra Neel Khichi, Jr  
**Office:** Cullimore 314  
**Office Hours: FMH 307: 730am-830am M/W**

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**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.

**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

- l. To examine and analyze complex sociological, psychological, and cultural variables involved in the technological global society
- m. Framing contemporary issues through science, technology, and societal analysis
- n. To use self-reflection and critical thought that expands awareness of the student and the world around them
- o. Communicating in a variety of ways to a variety of audiences
- p. Articulating an appreciation of the complexities of science, technology, and society
- q. Evaluating, analyzing, and understanding various theorists in the social sciences and their relevance in the 21st Century.

Required Textbooks: Society: the Basics 15th Edition (eBook) by John Macionis(c)2019 Pearson 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
In Class Essay #1	50 points
In Class Essay #2	50 points
Group Questions assignment	50 points
Quiz #1	100 points
Quiz #2	100 points
Quiz #3	100 points
Quiz #4 (cumulative)	200 points
Individual Presentation	100 points
Reflection Paper	50 points
<i>*POP Quizzes*</i>	<i>100 points</i>
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Total Point Value	750 points <i>(**or 850 points)</i>

**GRADING SCALE:**

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

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes must be submitted during the scheduled time they are open. No exceptions to this rule.

**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 "0" 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 and during this Fall session. 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](mailto: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:** 100 points: There are 4 timed quizzes. Dates and details are provided in the syllabus.

Quiz#4 is worth 200 points.

If for any reason you miss the quiz, you have **one day** to contact me following the closing of the quiz, and if you provide appropriate documentation, we will arrange a make up for Quizzes 1, 2, and 3, there are no extensions or make ups after the quiz closes. There are no make ups for Quiz #4.

**Syllabus Overview Agreement:** 50 points

**Reflection Paper:** 50 points

**Group Assignment:** 50 points. Your group is required to have 6 questions ready for discussion for **both** class days, the week are you assigned.

**Group Presentation:** 100 points.

You will be required to present to the class. Details to follow after Spring Break.

**In Class Essay #1 & #2** There are TWO in class essay assignments due this semester. Each are worth 50 points

Please note anything submitted late is automatically reduced by ½.

**Essay Rubric:**

90-100: Your initial essay provides a *minimum* of five examples, topics, or issues from the readings; 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 Turnitin score is below 10%

80-89: Your 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 Turnitin score is between 10-20%.

70-79: Your 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. Your Turnitin score is between 25%-33%. It is unclear if a relationship exists between the examples and the topics.

60-69: 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. Work is unacceptable and not on par with college level work. Your Turnitin score is between 35%-50%

50: Work is unacceptable and not on par with college level work. Turnitin score is above 50% and plagiarism is called into question.

0: You did not submit the assignment.

\*\*\*Please note about Turnitin score. If you use quotes, you should provide proper and substantial analysis with the quotes. All quotes should **be in bold** that has both the **article/author cited**.\*\*\*

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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 Sunday, September 10th, 2023@1159pm will be given a grade of 50/50. Anything posted on September 11th, 2023 will be given a grade of 25/50. Anything posted September 12th, 2023 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.

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## Schedule:

(This schedule is subject to change without warning or prior notification. Should there be a change, you will be notified in advance, the beginning of the week that is to be changed)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Readings/Topics Covered</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
WEEK 1: SEPTEMBER 5-10 <sup>TH</sup>	Introductions/Hellos/Get to Knows	Syllabus Confirmation Assignment: READ the syllabus CAREFULLY. Familiarize yourself with Canvas
WEEK 2: SEPTEMBER 11 <sup>TH</sup> -17 <sup>TH</sup>	Chapter 1: What is the Sociological Perspective and Technology's Impact on the Sociological Perspective?  1.1 Explain how the sociological perspective helps us understand that society shapes our individual lives.  1.2 Summarize sociology's major theoretical approaches.	
WEEK 3: SEPTEMBER 18 <sup>TH</sup> -24 <sup>TH</sup>	Chapter 2: Culture and Technology  2.1 Explain the development of culture as a human strategy for survival. 2.2 Identify common elements of culture. 2.3 Analyze how a society's level of technology shapes its culture	Group 1 questions
WEEK 4: SEPTEMBER 25 <sup>TH</sup> -	Chapter 3: Socialization: From Infancy to Old Age in Technological Society  3.1 Describe how social interaction is the foundation of personality.	Group 2 questions  <b>In Class Essay #1 on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>

<p>OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup></p>	<p>3.2 Analyze how the family, school, peer groups, and the mass media guide the socialization process.</p>	
<p><b>OCTOBER</b> WEEK 5:  OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>- OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup></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 Describe how we socially construct reality</p>	<p>READ: Zelenski: Chapter 4:</p> <p>Group 3 Questions</p> <p><b>Quiz#1: Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (online- at home or in class)</b></p>
<p>Week 6  OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>- OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup></p>	<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 Explore how the use of social media affects individuals.</p> <p>5.3 Assess how the use of social media may affect social relationships.</p> <p>5.4 Identify several effects of social media on society</p>	<p>Group 4 Questions</p>
<p>WEEK 7:  OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>- OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup></p>	<p>Chapter 6: Groups and Organizations</p> <p>6.1 Explain the importance of various types of groups to social life.</p> <p>6.2 Describe the operation of large, formal organizations.</p> <p>6.3 Summarize the changes to formal organizations over the course of the last century.</p>	<p>Group 5 Questions</p>

<p>WEEK 8: OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup>- OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup></p>	<p>Chapter 7: Sexuality, Society and Technology</p> <p>7.1 Describe how sexuality is both a biological and a cultural issue. 7.2 Explain changes in sexual attitudes in the United States. 7.3 Analyze factors that shape sexual orientation. 7.4 Discuss several current controversies involving sexuality</p>	<p>Group 6 Questions</p> <p><b>Quiz #2: Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (online-at home or in class)</b></p>
<p><b>NOVEMBER</b> WEEK 9: OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>- NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup></p>	<p>Chapter 11: Gender and Technology</p> <p>11.1 Describe the ways in which society creates gender stratification. 11.2 Explain the importance of gender to - socialization.</p>	<p>Group 7 Questions</p> <p>Go over individual presentations</p>
<p>WEEK 10: NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>- NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup></p>	<p>Chapter 12: Race, Ethnicity, and Technology</p> <p>12.1 Explain the social construction of race and ethnicity. 12.2 Describe the extent and causes of prejudice.</p>	<p>Group 8 Questions</p>
<p>WEEK 11: NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>- NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup></p>	<p>Chapter 14: Family, Religion, and Technology</p> <p>14.1 Understand families and how they differ around the world. 14.2 Analyze the diversity of family life over the life course. 14.3 Analyze the importance of divorce, -</p>	<p><b>In Class Essay #2, Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b></p>

	remarriage, and various family forms.	
WEEK 12: NOVEMBER 20 <sup>TH</sup> - NOVEMBER 26 <sup>TH</sup>		<p><b>Quiz #3 Tuesday, November 21th, 2023 (at home or In class)</b></p> <p><b>Thanksgiving Recess</b></p> <p>11/21 (THURSDAY CLASSES MEET)</p> <p>11/22 (FRIDAY CLASSES MEET)</p>
WEEK 13: NOVEMBER 27 <sup>TH</sup> - DECEMBER 3 <sup>RD</sup>		<b>Individual Presentations</b>
DECEMBER WEEK 14: DECEMBER 4 <sup>TH</sup> - DECEMBER 10 <sup>TH</sup>		<b>Individual Presentations</b>
WEEK 15: DECEMBER 11 <sup>TH</sup> - DECEMBER 17 <sup>TH</sup>		<p><b>Quiz #4 (cumulative): Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 (online- at home or in class)</b></p> <p><b>Reflection Paper due Tuesday night, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @1159pm</b></p> <p><b>Individual conferences by appointment on Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 in office Cullimore 314</b></p>

