

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 30633 History of Technology in Society

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: Junior standing or consent of the instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-20

I. Course Information:

A. Catalog Description

The history of technology and its impact on societies and cultures, with special emphasis on western developments since the Industrial Revolution.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine of the technological advances that have helped shape modern society.
2. Analyze the positive and negative impact of various technological developments on society and the environment.
3. Discuss divergent viewpoints concerning the role of technology in the evolution of humankind's social, political, and economic institutions.
4. Discuss contemporary currents of thought concerning the impact of continuing technological advances.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will write essays that address various aspects of technology and society. Students will also make oral presentations and participate in class discussions.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will conduct research on topics germane to the class. Research papers are assessed based on their ability to analyze the historical context within which various technologies developed.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will examine the role technology has played in the ever-widening gulf between western society and third world nations.

III. MAJOR COURSE TOPICS

- A. A brief overview of technological advances before the Industrial Revolution
- B. The Industrial Revolution, including its impact on labor, national economics, and politics.
- C. Twentieth-century developments in technology, including the impact on the environment and global politics.
- D. Various viewpoints of continued technological advances in the twenty-first Century.