Instructor
Dr. Kathy Garay garay@mcmaster.ca

Office hours: by email and by appointment
Class location: MDCL 1010
Class time: Monday 11:30-12:20
Class wiki: http://3b03.wikifoundry.com/

Exploration Facilitators
Alon Coret coreta@mcmaster.ca
Kara Hounsell hounsekg@mcmaster.ca

Schedule
One hour of class will be set aside for exploration (small group learning) sessions. You have been assigned to an exploration. Your group will meet on either Mondays or Tuesdays – please check your timetable.

Course Description
In this course we will examine technological practices as cultural activities, informed by and informing beliefs, values, social structures and institutions. Our investigation will be positioned primarily within frameworks of terminological and historical analysis.

Course Objectives
The significant role played by technology in our time and the resulting tensions between technology and society (however those terms may be defined) are often viewed as defining aspects of modernity. One of the main functions of this course will be to explore the extent to which interactions between technology and society have always been central and to consider the extent to which many of today’s debates concerning that relationship have been prefigured in earlier periods.

The primary objective of the course will be to encourage you to think integratively, in a way which combines aspects of technological development with wider aspects of culture. The course will encourage you to acquire a sense of context and develop an informed perspective on the complex relationship between society and technology. We will be assisted by an examination of the views of some of the most influential cultural theoreticians. Also integrated within our chronological approach will be the study of particular "technologies" through time, including two central case studies: the construction and reconstruction of the idea of the City and the evolution and re-invention of the Book as artefact and as concept.

This course also aims to provide you with an opportunity to develop your skills of inquiry, oral
presentation, collaborative learning and seminar leadership. In addition, clear, grammatical writing will be emphasized and will be expected in all written work.

Course Methodology

- This course is **interdisciplinary**. While we will use the tools of historians, philosophers and political theorists, we will not restrict our perspectives to these approaches.
- This course is **inquiry-based**. We will shape some central questions and seek possible answers to them. The course will not attempt to provide a comprehensive survey of technology/society relationships through time.
- This course is **participatory**. We will shape our exploration of the questions and the evidence collaboratively.
- This course relies extensively on **email** communication. It is your responsibility to ensure that the Arts and Science office has your functioning email address, that you are on the class distribution list and that you check your email regularly.
- You will be required to contribute regularly to the **class wiki**: [http://3b03.wikifoundry.com/](http://3b03.wikifoundry.com/). Please sign up immediately. I will then promote you to “writer” status so that you can post to the site.

**Please Note:**
Whether the focal point of any class is a discussion facilitated by the instructor, a guest speaker, or a student exploration, you are all expected to attend each class and to involve yourselves in listening, questioning and discussions. Part of your grade will be assigned for attendance and participation. **Punctuality is particularly important at exploration sessions.** Exploration group members will participate in the evaluation of exploration presentations.

**Exploration sessions:**
These are small group, inquiry-based learning sessions. Most weeks one student will prepare an exploration question to serve as a discussion topic for the rest of the group. The question and related reading (10 pages max.) are to be emailed to the rest of the group, to the TA and to me at least 24 hours before the seminar meeting time (late emails will be penalized!). Please try to avoid sending huge files; save your files as economically as possible.

**Elements of an Exploration:**
a) Preparatory (presenter):
Framing of a central question and selection of a reading, provided in advance
b) Preparatory (group participation)
All students in the group will be expected to read the material selected before the exploration session
c) Procedural (presenter)
During the exploration session the presenter will share her/his own findings using whatever form of presentation she/he chooses (traditional lecture style, role play, debate, question and answer etc.). This presentation should take no more than 25 minutes - time limits will be strictly
enforced! The remaining class time will be spent in discussion, facilitated by the student presenting.
d) Procedural (group participation)
   Elements of the discussion:
   - description of a technology
   - analysis of the society: may include political, economic, religious/ethical, cultural aspects
   - discussion of interactions
   - downstream or "so what?" factor
   Five minutes must be left for peer evaluation.
In weeks where there is no formal presentation sessions may be devoted to discussion of pre-selected topics.

Assignments and marks allocation
You will be required to complete the following elements for this course:

**Preparation** 5% (group grade)
Preparation will be assessed by means of group led discussion of the readings assigned for each week. Several students will animate discussion for a maximum 10 minutes each week.

**Attendance and participation** 10%
Attendance will be assessed primarily by regularly circulating sign up sheets.
Attendance and participation are expected for all classes.

**Perspective paper** 5%
500 word (max.) “position paper.” Argue for or against the following statement: Does technology make us happier or more miserable? You must support your position with examples from your own experience. Due 11.30 am. **September 22.**

**Exploration** 30%
Your grade will be based on your central question, selected reading, presentation, attendance and participation.

**Online Assignment**
You will be required to select a (nonfictional) city and produce a piece of work examining the **role of technology** (how has technology assisted or impeded?) as it relates to the following aspects:

The city’s origins and past and present functions
The city’s strengths and weaknesses
The city’s possible futures

Your assignment, to be posted to the class wiki, may include any media format. Further details, including limits on the choice of certain cities, are available here: [http://3b03.wikifoundry.com/page/Online+assignment](http://3b03.wikifoundry.com/page/Online+assignment)
Assignment due **October 27.**

**Final paper** proposal 5%, paper 25% 30%

This assignment will provide you with the opportunity to research and articulate a position on any aspect of the historical relationship between technology and culture. You must submit your paper topic, with a working title, a one page outline, and a brief list of potential sources, for approval to the instructor in class on **November 3.** Your chosen technology must have existed in some form (must have a historical “tail”) prior to 1960. The paper should not be on the same topic as your Exploration presentation. Topics related to your Exploration will need convincing written justification. Further details are available here: [http://3b03.wikifoundry.com/page/Checklist+for+Major+Papers](http://3b03.wikifoundry.com/page/Checklist+for+Major+Papers)

**Papers are due in class on November 17.**
The word limit is 2500.
Clear organization, good writing and meticulous source citation will enhance your final mark.

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**Please note:** All late work will be subject to a 3% per day penalty, weekends and holidays included. No work will be accepted after the last day of class.

**Required Texts**


Arts and Science 3B3 *Coursepack*

Note: You will be expected to have carefully read any readings assigned before the class in which they are to be discussed.

**Other resources**

Suggestions for supplemental reading will be given in class. You may also wish to consult the following sites:

Society for the History of Technology:

Browse or search the journal *Technology and Culture*:
[http://muse.jhu.edu.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/journals/technology_and_culture/](http://muse.jhu.edu.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/journals/technology_and_culture/)

TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Lectures
[http://www.ted.com/themes](http://www.ted.com/themes)

Listen to some of the podcasts in this series:
ARTS AND SCIENCE 3B03 FALL 2014
Provisional Class Schedule

This outline is subject to re-visitation and change. We may not discuss all of the topics listed below and may include others instead. The course may be shaped and guided by your interests and suggestions.

Week 1 (Monday September 8) *Introductions*
Coursepack: Winner (#1), Postman, chapters 1-4

Week 2 (September 15)*Building the frames:*
Constructing chronologies
Prehistory, the ancient and medieval worlds
*Why the City and the Book?*
Reading for next week:
McLuhan (#2). Postman, chapters 5-8

Week 3 (September 22)*Definitions and perspectives*
*The Canadian Connection:* Innis, McLuhan, Grant

** Perspective "one pager" (500 words max.) due September 22.

Readings for next week:
Postman, chapters 8-11,
(#3) 430 BC: Pericles’ speech on Athens from Thucydides: [http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/pericles-funeralspeech.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/pericles-funeralspeech.asp)
Also consult this site:

Week 4 (September 29)*Ideas about cities, old and new.*
*Is Postman right?*
Reading for next week:
Early 5th. Century: Augustine, *City of God*
1346-1347: Froissart: The Siege of Calais
http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/books/Froissart/index.cfm?page=0&dir=0001 (introduction)
http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/books/Froissart/index.cfm?page=0113 to
http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/books/Froissart/index.cfm?page=0115
12th. Century: An Arab view of the Crusaders, parag.2 THEIR CURIOUS MEDICATION
http://medieval.ucdavis.edu/20B/Usamah.html,

Coursepack: Mumford (#3)

Week 5 (October 6)
What can we learn from the Middle Ages?
Technological determinism?
The Christian City: Augustine’s view
The Medieval World: The shape shifting city
Warfare and the social construction of the knight
Technology and “the other”

For next class: Coursepack:
1345: De Bury Philobiblon, Chapter 17 (XVII) Of showing due propriety in the custody of books:
Eisenstein (#4)
Also listen to the following CBC radio programme;

THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON MONDAY OCTOBER 13 (THANKSGIVING)

Week 7 (October 20)
The culture and technology of the Book (field trip to examine medieval manuscripts and early printed books – in Mills Library Connections Centre)
Readings for next week:
Coursepack: Weisner (#5), Franklin (#6), Jacobs (#7)
“(S)he's Got the Look: Gender Stereotyping of Robots” by Friederike Eyssel and Frank Hegel.
You can listen to an interview with one of the co-authors on CBC radio here:

Week 8 (October 27)
Technology and Gender; Where were/are the women?
Franklin, Jacobs and Feminist Theories
What about McMaster?
Readings for next week: Coursepack: Sale (#8) and Johnson (#9)

** Online assignment due October 27

Week 9 (November 3)

*Early Modern to Modern: the shape shifting world*
Nature vs. Technology:
*The Industrial Revolution and the city – causes, effects and aftermath*
Readings for next week:
Look over the following report (long) – you may need to save and then open this .pdf file:
read:
and
Barber (#10)
If time permits, listen to the following radio programme:
*In the Shadow of Steel*

** Monday November 3 is the final date for submission of your final paper topics for approval

Week 10 (November 10)
Guest speaker: Fred Eisenberger, past President of the Canadian Urban Institute and former mayor of the City of Hamilton
The role of technology in developing and supporting sustainable cities

For next week:
Listen to this interview with Margaret MacMillan (17 minutes):
http://www.cbc.ca/thesundayedition/listen/
and this radio programme:
*How we kill in war*
And explore these sites:
http://pw20c.mcmaster.ca
http://www.firstworldwar.com

** Final papers (2500 words max.) due November 17.

Week 11 (November 17)
- The Technology of War (field trip to examine collections related to WWI and II – in Mills Library Connections Centre)
Readings for next week: Coursepack: Maines (#11) and Benjamin (#12) and this letter from Mathias Döpfner, CEO of German publisher Axel Springer:
http://futureofthebook.org/blog/
Also explore these sites:
http://highrise.nfb.ca/

Week 12 (November 24)
Technology and Sexuality
Technology and Modernity:
The once and future (?) book
The socially responsive state - the City revisited: Post Urbanism

Week 13 (December 1)
- Extracts from Metropolis (1926) - a Fritz Lang film and
- Modern Times (1936) - a Charles Chaplin film
Course evaluation.
Academic Integrity Statement

*McMaster Policy on Academic Integrity:*
You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at: [http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

MSAF Statement

*McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):*
This is an on-line, self-reporting tool for students to report absences due to minor medical situations that last up to 5 days and to request accommodation for any missed academic work that is worth less than 30% of the final grade. Please note that this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. It is the prerogative of the instructor to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work. You may submit a maximum of one request per term. The form should be filled out immediately when you are about to return to class after your absence. It is your responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately (within two working days) about the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent for more than 5 days, have missed academic work worth 30% or more, or exceed one request per term, you must see Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program office (C-105). You will be required to provide supporting documentation.

Email Contact and Student Responsibility Statement

*Please Note:*
The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes. Announcements will be made in class
and by using the course email distribution list.

**Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities Statement**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.