

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Course Profile

Course Number : HSS 421	Course Title: Information Technology and Social Life
Required / Elective : Required	Pre / Co-requisites : None
Catalog Description: History of information and communication technologies (ICT). Concepts of Information Society, Knowledge Society, Network Society. Cultures of the internet. ICTs and economic development. Privacy issues. Computer games and self-identity. Internet and political participation. ICTs and education. Inequality and ICTs. "Digital Divide".	Textbook/Required Material: No textbook. Readings from diverse sources in a course pack.
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS	
Extended Description: This course examines the evolution and impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the past two centuries: telegraph, telephone, radio, television, computers, internet, and cell phones. Emphasis is placed on the social, cultural, and political aspects of ICT developments. These technologies are not just artifacts; they form sociotechnological systems. These systems, in turn, shape the sociotechnical practices of individuals and groups. A major theme of the course is the dialectic of technological progress and risk.	
Design content : none	Computer usage: No particular computer usage required
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know the range of technologies that can be termed "information technologies". (2, 4, 14) 2. Understand that most information technologies are systems technologies and that we, as users, are components of those systems. (1, 2, 4, 10, 14) 3. Be familiar with the sociological and cross-cultural variations in uses and impacts of information technologies. (1, 2, 10, 14) 4. Be able to identify both the costs and the benefits of information technologies. (1, 2, 10, 14) <p>(1) Apply analytical and critical thinking skills to contemporary global issues.</p> <p>(2) Describe interrelationships between science, technology, and society.</p> <p>(4) Explain the historical, political, and economic conditions in which science and technology emerge.</p> <p>(10) Synthesize complex ideas in clear, concise ways.</p> <p>(14) Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with written, oral and visual means.</p>	
Recommended reading :	
Teaching methods: Lecture and class discussions.	
Assessment methods : Weekly quizzes and two essay exams.	

Student workload:

Pre-reading	30 hrs
Lectures	45 hrs
Preparatory reading	40 hrs
Literature review for presentation.....	25 hrs
Team work for presentation	10 hrs
TOTAL	150 hrs

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