

Morehead State University - Department of Industrial and Engineering Technology
IET 300 - TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY
SYLLABUS – Summer 2006
INTERNET COURSE - ONLINE DELIVERY

Course Description: (3 credits). *Prerequisite: ENG 100 or equivalent.* A study of current technological issues and their relationship to various cultures throughout the world. Included are innovations, evolution, philosophical views, ethics, risk assessment, and future of technology in a complex society. Students will be introduced to the uncertainties and promises that arise when technology becomes a creative human enterprise.

Instructor: Dr. Charles Patrick, Professor, P.E., C.S.I.T.

[Department of Industrial and Engineering Technology](#), Office - 209 Lloyd Cassity Bldg.

Voice contact: 606-783-2884 (office), 606-784-4452 (home), 606-776-2274 (last resort - cell)

Office Hours: I will be in my office mainly in the mornings during the summer terms.

Online Information:

Dr. Patrick's e-mail: c.patrick@moreheadstate.edu [**This is my email address but all correspondence for IET 300 will be managed through the "My Messages" function in Blackboard.**]

Dr. Patrick's web page: <http://people.morehead-st.edu/fs/c.patric/> or <http://www.cpatrick.info>

IMPORTANT:

- You are **registered** for this class at MSU but you **MUST also be electronically enrolled** for the class online. If you are not enrolled on Blackboard for IET 300, **DO THAT NOW!**
- Enrolling in the Blackboard IET 300 course is not optional and must be completed immediately.

Blackboard "My Messages" function: VERY IMPORTANT:

- We will communicate within Blackboard using the "My Messages" function. This is an internal email system within Blackboard.
- Once in IET 300 on Blackboard, click on the "My Messages" icon on the menu and then check the 'Inbox'. Check for your messages at each login. Do NOT assume you have no messages. This is an essential part of this course and each student must maintain consistent communication with the course instructor.

Computer Hardware and Internet Connection Speed:

This is an online course; therefore, it is assumed that you have the necessary computer hardware and Internet connection capabilities that will allow you to access, generate, and submit the required information for the course. At a minimum, you should have (1) a relatively current computer (no more than 2 years old); (2) Microsoft Word (or the equivalent word processor software that can save files in MS Word "doc" format; and, (3) a high-speed Internet connection [it is necessary to access several large files (6+ Megs) in this class, so a dial-up connection is not recommended]. If you do not personally have or have access to the required hardware, you are strongly encouraged to get access prior to attempting this class. If you have questions about computer hardware or Internet connection speed, contact me immediately.

Course Purpose: This is an upper division general education course (Social and Behavioral Sciences elective) designed to introduce students to the realm of technology and to increase their awareness of both the uncertainties and promises that arise when technology becomes a creative human enterprise. The course is intended to facilitate the integration of existing student views into a coherent and realistic perspective of a technological society. In addition to the innovations in technology, consideration will be given to the nature of technology and science, evolution of technology, philosophical views of technology, technology ethics, contemporary technological issues and concerns, technology risk assessment and the future outlook for science and technology. Several course activities focus on the roles individuals can play in the management and control of technological forces toward social progress.

Learner Objectives and Assessment Techniques: Successful students will:

1. Verbalize points of view pertaining to a variety of technological issues through individual and group (both small and large) discussion and debate (**evaluated in Group Activities #1-#4**).
2. Assess and evaluate their own views and values, as well as others, relative to the effects of advancing technology on individuals and society (**evaluated through Reflective Writing Exercises #1-#8, Group Activities #1-#4, Midterm and Final Exams, and Research Activity**).
3. Solve problems individually and in groups (representing a microcosm of society) to demonstrate their ability to investigate and evaluate technological advances/potential to make informed, responsible decisions relative to the management and control of technology in a modern society (**evaluated through Individual Writing Activities #1-#2, Group Activities #1-#4, and Research Activity**).
4. Demonstrate their understanding of the comprehensive nature of technology and how it pervades our lives (**evaluated through Reflective Writing Exercises #1-#8, Individual Writing Activities #1-#2, Group Activities #1-#4, Midterm and Final Exams**).
5. Demonstrate their level of accountability as an individual in a technological society to make informed, responsible decisions relative to need, risk assessment, and management of future technology through individual and group activities, reflective writing, and critical reporting (**evaluated through Reflective Writing Exercises #1-#8, Individual Writing Activities #1-#2, Group Activities #1-#4, and Midterm and Final Exams**).

Instructional Strategies: The course is presented through online delivery via the Internet and Blackboard software platform. Reading online and text materials as well as viewing PowerPoint presentations are the primary methods of information delivery. Students are required to read, perform online research, and write about the course materials.

Required Text (it is very unlikely you will pass this course without this textbook):

Markert, L.R. and P.R. Backer. 2003. Contemporary Technology: Innovations, Issues, and Perspectives. Tinley Park, IL: Goodheart-Willcox Company, Inc.

The text is available through the MSU bookstore or online through www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com or similar online bookstore.



Grading Description:

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Scoring</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exams (end of 2 nd and 4 th weeks).....	2 @ 75 points each.....	150
Reading Reflections.....	6 @ 15 points each.....	90
Individual Writing Activities.....	2 @ 40 points each.....	80
Group/Internet Activities.....	2 @ 40 points each.....	80
Research Activity [web page].....	1 @ 100 points.....	100
TOTAL.....		500

Reading Reflections:

You will be given reading assignments from the course text (Markert and Backer) and other sources (all available online on Blackboard or through Internet). For each reading assignment, you must develop a minimum of three (3) complete thoughts, separated by numbering, and submit the thoughts through Blackboard.

These three (3) thoughts must reflect ideas developed by you from the reading and a not mere repetition of what is already stated in the readings. Each thought of yours (3 total) should be at least one paragraph in length (4-7 sentences) - so the total reflection should be at least one page in length. The following are examples of what you might include in your reflection.

- Statements linking the reading to your personal feelings about technology.
- Ideas in the chapter that are linked with previously learned material.
- Ideas that are interesting and novel.
- Descriptions of how the practices in the reading could be used in the future.

- Opinions of ideas presented in the readings.
- Reflections on experiences with any of the ideas contained in the readings.

You will be graded based on the content of your reflection but not the format. In other words, only what is written in content will be graded; you will not be graded for grammar, punctuation, and spelling accuracy on reflections.

Writing Activities:

Writing Activities are writing assignments based on reviews of course materials, articles/text readings, and/or Internet research materials. Individual activities will be assigned once per week (4 weeks in Summer II term) with specific issues to address and connect. You will be graded based on the content and format of your writing. In other words, what is written in content as well as your accuracy for grammar, punctuation, and spelling will be graded.

Group/Internet Activities:

Internet activities are activities where you will be asked to read articles and/or search various sources on the Internet and interact with your group and the entire class through a series of questions and answers.

Research Assignment:

The research assignment is twofold: (1) you will research a contemporary technology on the Internet and provide an objective review (positive and negative aspects) of that technology; and, (2) develop and post a web page that details in words and pictures the objective review of the chosen technology. A detailed description of this assignment and the grading rubric (scoring sheet) is provided on Blackboard under 'Assignments'. You should download this document and review those details carefully.

Exams:

There will be two exams in the class - one at the end of week #2 and one at the end of week #4. The exams will be mainly essay format with a two-hour time limit. The exams will be provided on the designated day and students are allowed to take the exam at any time during the designated day with a few restrictions on time. The two-hour time limit will be monitored by Blackboard.

General Assumptions:

1. This class is offered in an online format. This content of this course pertains to technology and the interaction with people - with society. As the class instructor, I assume that you, as a student taking an online course, have reasonable access to the Internet throughout the week. I assume that you are well versed in computer usage including use of email and Blackboard. You are expected to be able to easily communicate through and use the various components of Blackboard.
2. This course uses MS Office products, so use of MS Word is assumed when completing writing assignments. Use of other products is strongly discouraged, but is allowed if those products can save electronic files in MS Office formats. For example, all writing assignments shall be submitted in MS Word format with a ".doc" extension on the file.
3. Readings pertinent to individual instructional topics will be assigned and it is your responsibility to keep current with all readings and reflections.
4. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Late work is unacceptable, regardless of technology problems.
5. Class activities cannot be made up if they are missed.

Policy for Accommodating Students with Disabilities: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any special needs before the end of the second day of class.