A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL**   Date: **FEBRUARY 1999**

B: Faculty: **HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**   New Course:

Department: **SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY**   Revision of Course Information form: **NOVEMBER 1997**

C: **SOCI 290**   D: **SOCIETY AND TECHNOLOGY**   E: **3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credit

F: Calendar Description: This course examines the impact of technology on the social relations of people in contemporary industrial societies. It investigates the social bases of technological innovation and examines the forces associated with the institutionalized uses of technology, as well as the consequences of those uses. Critical evaluation of a range of important questions and issues will be undertaken in relation to the social uses and impacts of technology at micro- (e.g., experiential, identity, subjective interpretation) and macro- (e.g., workplace, institutional, economic) sociological levels.

Summary of Revisions: (Enter date & section)
Eg: Section C,E,F

H, M

G: Type of instruction: Hrs. per Week / per Semester

Lecture:	2	Hrs.
Laboratory:		Hrs.
Seminar:	2	Hrs.
Clinical Experience:		Hrs.
Field Experience:		Hrs.
Practicum:		Hrs.
Shop:		Hrs.
Studio:		Hrs.
Student Directed Learning:		Hrs.
Other (Specify):		Hrs.
Total:	4	Hrs.

H: Course Prerequisites:

SOCI 125 or SOCI 145 or SOCI 155

I: Course Corequisites:

NONE

J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:

NONE

K: Maximum Class Size:

35

L:

College Credit Transfer	X
College Credit Non-Transfer	
Non-Credit	

M: Transfer Credit: Requested:

Granted: X

Specify Course Equivalents or Unassigned Credit as appropriate: (as per current B.C. Transfer Guide)

SFU	SA (3)
UBC	SOCI 2nd (3)
UNBC	SOSC 260 (3)
UVIC	SOCI (1.5) 200 lev

_____ Course Designer(s)

15.2.00

_____ Department Chair

_____ Dean

P. H.
_____ Registrar

N.   Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students (Use Bibliographic Form):

Rudi Volti. Society and Technological Change, (3rd Edition). New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995.

Ron Westrum. Technologies & Society: The Shaping of People and Things. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1991.

Textbooks will be updated periodically.

Complete Form with Entries Under the Following Headings: O. Course Objectives; P. Course Content; Q. Method of Instruction; R. Course Evaluation

O.   COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

1.   Critically assess the major perspectives and theories employed to describe and analyze technology;

2.   Apply the sociological perspectives discussed in the course to specific issues and problems having to do with contemporary uses of technology;

3.   Identify the main social forces that help to bring about technological developments;

4.   Identify the political, economic military communicative, and other consequences of technologies and their uses;

5.   Describe and critically assess the intended and unintended consequences of institutionalized uses of technology;

6.   Describe the chief benefits and drawbacks of changes in technology as these affect different social domains, especially the contemporary workplace communications practices, and strategies of social control;

7.   Describe how institutionalized uses of technology impact on individual identity and subjective experience;

8.   Apply the sociological perspectives (previewed int he course) to critically analyze a contemporary or historical case of technology use:

P.   COURSE CONTENT

1.   Introduction: Overview of "Technology" and Technological Change
       Orienting Concepts and Definitions of Technology
       The Differential Consequences of Technological Change
       The Limits of Technology

2.   Critical Perspectives: Theoretical Approaches
       Marx's Theory of Technology
       The Ogburn Generation
       Recent Theoretical Approaches

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P.   **COURSE CONTENT Cont'd.**

3.   <u>Processes of Technological Change</u>
      Sources of Technological Change
      Inventors, Inventions
      Invention as Social Process

4.   <u>Science, Technology, and Sponsorship</u>
      Interrelationship of Science and Technology
      Sponsors and Social Supports for Technology

5.   <u>Diffusion of Technology</u>
      Diffusion of Innovation
      Economic Incentives of Diffusion
      Adaptation and Adoption
      Adapting and Tinkering

6.   <u>Technology's Impacts on Health and Environment</u>
      Technology, Energy and Environment
      Dilemmas of Medical and Biological Technologies
      Technological Accidents

7.   <u>Technology and the Changing Workplace</u>
      Points of Comparison: Work in Nonindustrial Societies
      Technology's Impact on Work and its Organization in Industrial Societies
      Changes in Occupation With Increase Technological Innovations

8.   <u>Communications Technology</u>
      Typographic Culture: Effects of "Print" on Society
      Electronic Media's Social Impacts: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly
      New Communications Technologies:
            New Information Technologies as Mechanisms of Social Control
            No Sense of Place: Revolutionizing Communication and Social Interaction
      The Distancing Effects of Technology

9.   <u>Weapons and the Conduct of War</u>
      Technology's Effects on Institutionalized Conflict: Tactical and Strategic Incentives of
            Technological Development and Use
      Social Structure and the Development of Military Technologies
      Controlling Proliferation of New Weapons?

10.   <u>Shaping, Controlling, and Assessing Technology</u>
      Technology and its Creators
            Technological Determinism
            Experts and Expertise
            Technology Assessment

11.   <u>Organizations and Technological Change</u>
      Technology as Cause and Consequence of Organizational Structure
      Interorganizational Relations and Technological Development
      Entrepreneurs and Organization

Subject and Course Number

P.   COURSE CONTENT Cont'd.

12.   <u>Government and the Control of Technology</u>
       Government Actions and the Shaping of Technology
       Guiding Technological Development
       Democratic Control of Technology
       Future Challenges

Q.   METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

The course will involve the use of a number of instructional methods to achieve its objectives, including the
following:

-    lectures
-    audio visual materials (including overheads, films)
-    small group discussions
-    oral presentations (discussion seminars)
-    specialist guest speakers

R.   COURSE EVALUATION

Course evaluation is based on formative and summative elements and is in accord with the Douglas College
student evaluation policy. Specific components of evaluation will include some of the following: two exams
made up of shot answer and short ssay questions; an essay assignment; oral presentation; and participation in
class discussions, student presentations, and group discussions. Students will complete a research project
where the aim is to describe and critically evaluate a specific technology topic. Specific evaluation criteria
will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester and will vary according to the instructor's
assessment of appropriate evaluation methods.

An example of one evaluation scheme:

Mid-term examination	25%
Essay/Written Assignment	25%
Essay/outline	5%
Final examination	25%
Participation	20%
	100%