HIST 632
Technology, Culture and History
Tuesdays, 6-8:55pm
Cullimore 307

Professor Elizabeth Petrick

Email: elizabeth.r.petrick@njit.edu
Office: 324 Cullimore Hall
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-3pm or by appointment

Course Description:
This course concerns the relationship between technology and culture, and how it has been studied over time. We will examine how each has shaped the other in various historical contexts. We will analyze methods of researching and understanding technology and culture through key texts in the historiography, as well as new approaches. Themes include: the use of technology; gender, race, and technology; technological determinism; labor and technology; imperialism and technology.

Required Books:


Howard P. Segal, Technological Utopianism in American Culture. (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press), 1985 or 2005.


**Assignments:**

Discussion Lead x2 (15% each)

Every student will sign up to lead discussion twice. You will present a thorough summary and analysis of your chosen week's readings. You will also share a list of discussion questions on Moodle no later than the Monday night before your class.

Participation (20%)

Final Paper – 15-25 pages (50%)

Historiographical research paper on a subject of your choice (to be approved by me).

**Late Paper Submissions:** Papers will lose one grade for every day late (A to A-, A- to B+).

**Paper Formatting:** All papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt standard font (Times, Helvetica, Arial, etc), 1” margins. For digital submission, only the following file types are accepted: pdf, doc, docx.

**Grading Scale (for assignments):**

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
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<td>93-95</td>
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<td>89-92</td>
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**Academic Integrity:**

Students are required to follow the University Code on Academic Integrity. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. For details, see: [http://www.njit.edu/academics/integrity.php](http://www.njit.edu/academics/integrity.php)
Class Schedule:

**Week 1 (9/5): Theoretical Approaches**


**Week 2 (9/12): Technological Determinism**


**Week 3 (9/19): Technology, Culture and Environment**


**Week 4 (9/26): Industrialization and Imperialism**

**Week 5 (10/3): Technological Utopia**

**Week 6 (10/10): Social Construction of Technology**


**Week 7 (10/17): Domestic Technologies and Gender**


**Week 8 (10/24): Technology and Labor**


**Week 9 (10/31): Technology and the Body**

**Week 10 (11/7): Imagining Technology**


**Week 11 (11/14): Technological Revolution**

**Week 12 (11/21): NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING**

**Week 13 (11/28): Technology and Globalization**


**Week 14 (12/5): Wrap-up**

Steve Woolgar and Geoff Cooper. "Do Artefacts Have Ambivalence?" Social Studies of Science, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Jun., 1999), pp. 433-449.

**Week 15 (12/12): NO CLASS**