

New Information Technology and Society (SA)

Sociology and Anthropology 315

Section: J100

Term: 2011 Spring

Instructor: Instructor: Helen Kang

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Discussion Topics: From the Human Genome Project, blogs to biometric screening at the border, post-industrialized societies are saturated with new technologies of information that change at an accelerated pace. Despite their apparent novelty, however, these technologies echo and rearticulate existing regimes of knowledge and social order, particularly in relation to race, gender, class and sexuality. What is new is, in fact, old in many ways. In this course, we will take up core concerns and concepts in science and technology studies (STS), a multi and interdisciplinary field that has long grappled with questions of science, knowledge, power and subjectivity. We will specifically examine technologies that have transformed the way we understand social relations, truth and bodies, such as genetics, surveillance, health information, photojournalism, video games, blogging, online communities and clinical information. We will approach these topics and thematics from a critical standpoint, unraveling the relations of power and contextual complexities as well identifying spaces and practices of resistance and counterdiscourse.

Grading: Participation 20%

Group Presentation 15%

Concept Papers 45% (3x15%)

Media/Tech Analysis 20% (2x10%)

Grading and Academic Honesty:

All assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic honesty and misconduct procedures (S10.01-S10.04). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies available on the SFU website: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm>

Required Texts: A required Custom Courseware package will be available for sale in the Vancouver/Harbour Centre Bookstore.

Journal articles available online through the SFU Library.

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Recommended: SA 150

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.