

This course is a broad overview of information technology – a topic that permeates almost every moment of our lives. Lectures cover the basics of the guts of the hardware to the purposes of software and our man/machines interfaces that lets us communicate with and direct our IT apps and lives. The relevant role of IT in recent political events should be lively, and the role of IT in our leisure time will be discussed using animated entertainment through a history of Pixar with relevant examples – popcorn not included.

# ME 1305 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

Maymester 2017

## **Course Objectives**

*This course gives students a broad exposure to information technology (IT) through both a sociological and a technological prism. Our dependence upon it for communication, to economic transactions, to a global economy, to entertainment, and to education are immeasurable.*

## **Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

***UC2016: Depth/History, Social, & Behavioral Sciences***

***UC2016 TBD***

***Technology and Mathematics Student Learning Outcomes (Breadth):***

1d. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the social or environmental implications of technology.

## **Instructor**

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## **Office Hours**

***TBD***

## **Textbook**

***Technology in Action, 13<sup>th</sup> edition (2016)***

## **Canvas**

- *Lecture/Exam schedule*
- *Lecture PowerPoints*
- *Reflection Paper assignments*
- *Research Assignments*
- *Grades*
- *Accommodation*

## **Course Grading**

***In-class Exams (4) 40%***

***Research papers (4) 40%***

***Reflection Papers (4) 20%***

- *No Final Exam*
- *Missed exams made up within 2 days.*
- *No extra credit, no grades are dropped.*
- *Academic dishonesty may result in a course grade of F.*

**Attendance Policy**

- *Class – same as SMU policy*

***Class Day      Topic (Subject to Change)***

1. Course Introduction, Comparison of Social Research and Engineering Research Methodologies, Social Communication, Discussion of 1<sup>st</sup> research paper: (see class preparation below)
2. History of the PC/Mac (after Chapter 3), The Measures of a Culture, Chapter 1: Using Technology to Change the World, Discussion 1: Culture & IT. Preparation (see below) **Complete before class.**
3. History, Religion through IT <http://www.businessinsider.com/map-shows-how-religion-spread-around-the-world-2016-9> , Chapter 2: Looking at Computers: Understanding the Parts, **Exam I (at end of class)**
4. BTI – Before the Internet: How things got done before the Net, Chapter 3: Using the Internet: Making the Most of the Web’s Resources, Digital Classroom and Education, SMU’s Dedman Digital Humanities
5. Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> research paper, Chapter 4: Application Software: Programs That Let You Work and Play, Discussion 2: IT and Engineering (see below) **Complete this preparation before class.\***
6. Chapter 5: System Software: The OS, Utility Programs, and File Management, IT and the Political Process\*, Discussion of 3<sup>rd</sup> research paper, **Exam II (at end of class)**
7. Chapter 6: Understanding and Assessing Hardware: Evaluating Your System, Under the Hood (after Chapter 7), In-class discussion about IT and the political process, Discussion 3: preparation (see below) **Complete this preparation before this class.\***,
8. Chapter 7: Networking: Managing a Digital Lifestyle, Under the Hood (after Chapter 7), IT Ethics (after Chapter 5)
9. Discussion of 4<sup>th</sup> research paper, Chapter 8: Digital Devices and Media: Managing a Digital Lifestyle, **Exam III (at end of class)**
10. Chapter 9: Securing Your System: Protecting Your Digital Data and Devices, Careers in IT and Everything Else (after Chapter 9) , Digital Entertainment I: Combining New Tools, Art, and Human Nature\*
11. How a Digital Studio Began: Pixar, Creativity, Story, Artwork, Music, Actors, Programmers, Computer = André & Wally B., Is it real or is it Memorex?, **Exam IV (end of class)**

\* indicates material not included in the textbook

1<sup>st</sup> research paper discussion preparation 1: Log on to <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> and read up on Netiquette. Read all of the Rules and be ready to discuss them in class. Make a quick list of all electronic devices you own or use during a week at school.

2<sup>nd</sup> research paper discussion preparation: Find SMU's Dedman Digital Humanities site and explore activities they sponsor. Find other similar activities at other schools and discuss their effectiveness in an academic setting.

3<sup>rd</sup> research discussion preparation 3: Go to the on-line Newseum at <http://www.newseum.org/digital-classroom/default.aspx> and create an account. Log on and select the tab "**Education.**" Take the quiz to determine your voter personal political personality. Become familiar with the website by reading the four short articles under "**Election 2016: Stumped!?**"

4<sup>th</sup> research paper discussion: Go to the SMU Honor Code and read down to the start of Article 1. <http://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentLife/StudentHandbook/HonorCode>.

### **Research Papers**

These are individual research papers with a minimum of three complete pages. Cite a minimum of four different sources. Give specific examples. The title page and bibliography are not included in the page count.

Discuss the full impact of the topic at the local, state, national, and global level and to you as an individual.

No hand written work will be accepted. Format is Times New Roman 12-point font, 1½ line spacing, and 1-inch margins. You may include up to two pictures but cite the sources; they should not be larger than 3 inches diagonally. Save assignment as a pdf and upload onto Canvas.

These are individual assignments. Do not collaborate with other students on your assignments. Upload them on Canvas.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
1.How has IT changed the individual person to person relationships such as between child and parent, between friends, between strangers, between students and teachers?	TBD
2.The use of IT in education: how has the presentation of educational materials changed over the last 10 years? How have the elementary, high school and college classrooms changed? How has the access to education changed?	TBD
3. The use of IT in our political system: how has government adapted to using IT, how has IT changed the election process in the last 20 years? How have individuals/you been educated/influenced by IT in elections?	TBD
4. IT and Ethics: what are six relevant IT ethical challenges to students and how should they be resolved?	TBD