

Class Time: T 19:00-22:00

Class Location: TEL 0013

Professor: Shannon Bell

Office Location: S 644 Ross

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(mobile) 416 822 6831Office Hours: T 15:00-17:00
W 15:00-17:00
Th 15:00-17:00Course Website: <https://moodle10.yorku.ca/>

Course Description

TechnoPolitics examines the technopolitical convergence in select works of Heidegger, Kroker, Latour, Manovich, Marcuse, Massumi, McLuhan, Simondon, Steigler, Whitehead, and Virilio.

The thread that links these political philosophers and social theorists is a convergence in the belief that technology alters existence in terms of self and other, agency, consciousness, intimacy, intelligence, reason, life, embodiment, identity, and gender.

The teleology of humans defining their world through fabrication, the instrumental direction of tools and technology, is altered in what Steigler calls 'originary technicity': in human/ technological interface there is no obvious distinction between doer and means; technology and human endeavor are coupled in a manner in which technology constructs the human, as much as, perhaps more than, the human constructs technology.

This course has three objectives: 1) To determine how key thinkers in the 20th and 21st centuries have constructed the techno-human interface. 2) To determine how these same thinkers have derived not simply a politics of technology but a new political genre: technopolitics. And, 3) to examine the terrain of technopolitics as a contested terrain.

Grade Assignment

Seminar Presentation	20%
Discussion Forum: (Moodle course website)	10% weekly postings
Weekly Seminar Participation:	10%
Paper & Film abstract:	5% Due March 22
Essay (20 pages, 5000 words)	40% Due April 26
2 minute film	15% Due April 26

Seminar Presentation consists of conducting the seminar for one of the weeks however you see fit with the qualifiers that the material needs to be covered and questions posed for discussion.

Discussion Board – post :

- 1) material and questions relating to your seminar presentation and
- 2) observations/comments/musing (written, images, audio files)
regarding issues relating to cyborgology, technology, digitality, nature, politics, etc.

Discussion Board posting can be done daily, weekly.

The aim is to have an interactive discussion as well as posting your own observations

Paper and Film Abstract: A one page abstract outlining the subject of the paper and film and the course material to be used.

Essay Assignment. The aim of the essay is to critically engage course material on the topic of your choice relating to technopolitics. A minimum of six texts on the course must be integrated into your essay.

Film

A 2-minute film must accompany the essay. The film can be shot on a phone camera, digital still camera, video camera, or computer web cam and it can use found footage as long as the footage is altered by you.

If you are using a pc the Windows Movie Maker can be downloaded free from http://www.soft82.com/download/Windows/Windows_Movie_Maker
If you are using an Apple then use iMovie or Final Cut Express.

The film is to be processed as a QuickTime DVD quality.

The film is to be posted on <http://www.youtube.com/> or <http://www.vimeo.com/> with a link on the course Moodle Discussion Forum.

Books and ebooks

Bruno Latour, 2004. *Politics of Nature* (Harvard University Press)

Brian Massumi, 2002. *Parables for the Virtual* (Duke university Press)

Marshall McLuhan, 1964. *Understanding Media, The Extension of Man* (Ginko Press)

Bernard Steigler, 2010. *For A New Critique of Political Economy* (Polity)

Bernard Stiegler, 1998. *Technics and Time, 1. The Fault of Epimetheus* (Stanford University Press)

eArticles

Arthur Kroker, Hyper-Heidegger
<http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=348>

Martin Heidegger, 'The Question Concerning Technology'
<http://a.aaaarg.org/text/2160/question-concerning-technology>

Martin Heidegger, 'The Thing'
<http://a.aaaarg.org/text/5231/thing>

Herbert Marcuse, 'Some Social Implications of Modern Technology' pp. 41-65 of *Technology, War and Fascism* <http://a.aaaarg.org/text/4429/collected-papers-herbert-marcuse-1-technology-war-and-fascism>

Seminar & Reading Schedule

Jan. 4 Introduction

Jan. 11 Manovich, *Software Takes Command* (ebook on Moodle 6083 site)
<http://lab.softwarestudies.com/2009/06/publications.html>

Introduction: Software Studies for Beginners

Part 1: Inventing Cultural Software, Ch.1

Ch. 2 Understanding Metamedia

Part 2: Software Takes Command, Ch.3

Ch.4 Universal Capture

Part 3: Webware, Ch.5

Ch.6 Social Media: Tactics as Strategies _____ **ALL**

Jan. 18 McLuhan, *Understanding Media, The Extension of Man* (ebook on Moodle 6083 site)

1. Medium is the Message
2. Media Hot and Cold Reversal of the Overheated Medium
3. The Gadget Lover
12. Clothing: Our Extended Skin
14. Money: The Poor Man's Credit Card
15. Clocks: the Scent of Time
20. The Photograph
21. Press: Government by News Leek
22. Motorcar: the Mechanical Bride
29. Movies: The Reel World

- 30. Radio: The Tribal Drum
- 31. Television: The Timid Giant
- 32. Weapons: War of the Icons
- 33. Automation _____ **ALL**

Jan. 25 Heidegger, Marcuse, Kroker (earticles on Moodle 6083 site)
 Heidegger, 'The Question Concerning Technology'
 Heidegger, 'The Thing'
 Kroker, Hyper-Heidegger
<http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=348>
 Marcuse, 'Some Social Implications of Modern Technology' pp. 41-65
Technology, War and Fascism _____ **Micha**

Feb. 1 Whitehead, *Modes of Thought* (print copy)
 1. Creative Impulse
 2. Activity
 3. Nature and Life
 4. Epilogue _____ **Shannon**

Feb. 8 Stiegler, *Technics and Time, 1* (ebook on Moodle 6083 site)
 Part 1: The Invention of the Human
 Introduction & 1. Theories of Technical Evolution
 2. Technology and Anthropology
 3. Who? What? The Invention of the Human _____ **Claire**

Feb.15 Stiegler, *Technics and Time, 1* (ebook on Moodle 6083 site)
 Simondon 'Genesis of the Individual' (earticle on Moodle 6083 site)
 Part II: The Fault of Epimetheus
 Introduction & 1. Prometheus's Liver
 2. Already There
 3. The Disengagement of the What _____ **Aaron**

Mar. 1 Latour, *Politics of Nature* (print copy)
 Introduction: What is to be Done with Political Ecology
 1. Why Political Ecology Has to Let Go of Nature
 2. How to Bring the Collective Together
 3. A New Separation of Powers _____ **Madison**

March 8 Latour, *Politics of Nature* (print copy)

4. Skills for the Collective
5. Exploring Common Worlds

Conclusion: What is to be Done? Political Ecology! _____

March 15 Virilio, *Speed and Politics* (ebook on Moodle 6083 site)

- Part I. The Dromological Revolution
- Part 2. Dromological Progress
- Part 3. Dromological Society
- Part 4. The State of Emergency _____

March 22 Steigler, *For A New Critique of Political Economy* (print copy)

- A warning
- Introduction
- Pharmacology of the Proletariat
- Pharmacology of Capital & Economy of Contribution _____ **Guio**

March 29 Massumi, *Parables for the Virtual* (print copy)

- Introduction
1. The Autonomy of Affect
 3. The Political Economy of Belonging and the Logic of Relation
 4. The Evolutionary Alchemy of Reason: Stelarc
 5. On the Superiority of Analog
 8. Strange Horizon: Buildings, Biograms & the Body Topologic
_____ **Rodney**