

Division of Natural Science

<http://natsci.info.yorku.ca/>

Course Outline

1700A Computers, Information, and Society

F/W 2018

Monday and Thursday, 5:30 to 6:50, Steadman Lecture Halls D

Course Instructor(s) and Contact Information

- Dr. Dov Lungu
- Email: natsb@yorku.ca
 - This is the address of first contact for all course-related matters.
 - Students should send emails only from @my.yorku.ca email as emails sent through other email providers such as Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo and others, may be filtered and would never make it to the instructor.
 - Typical response time: 24 hours.
 - Email correspondence should be used only for brief questions. For all other questions, please come to my office hours.
 - No discussion of any kind with your instructor will be possible once the class is finished.
- Office hours: Monday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 at 227 Bethune College.

Email Policies and Etiquette

- You may address your instructor as Professor Lungu, or Doctor Lungu, or Dov.
- On the **Subject** line of your email you should make clear in only a few words what the email is about, For example: **Subject:** *My grade for the mid-term exam.*
- Your email should always include your full name as it appears in the university records and your student number.
- All email should be written using clear sentences free of slang, text lingo or vulgar terms.
- Emails that do not meet the specifications mentioned in the section will not be answered.

Expanded Course Description

This course provides a selective survey of the development of computers and the interactions between Information Technology and society. The course begins with a fast-paced review of the origins of current Information Technologies, and continues by examining from a variety of perspectives, a broad range of socio-technical issues central to 21st century such as privacy, access to information, computer security, the transformation of work and a few others. These issues have arisen, or have become topical, as a result of the development and application of the rapid development of new Information Technologies. Most of them are highly contentious and form the object of lively public debates.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course committed students will

1. Gain familiarity with the history of the computer.
2. Be able to critically examine the social, economic, political, legal and cultural implications of Information Technologies.
3. Do basic qualitative and quantitative research
3. Be able to analyse contradictory arguments, challenge received wisdom and ask their own questions about the role of present-day's Information Technology in society.
3. Improve their critical, analytical and communication skills.

Performance Evaluation

- 2 Term Exams (20% each) 40%
- 4 Class Assignments (5% each)* 15%
- 1 Term Paper 25%
- 1 Home Assignment 20%

* Each class assignment is worth 5% of the final mark for the course. Only the best four marks out of the five count.

Please note: For the dates of exams, class assignments, term paper and home assignment, consult the course Moodle.

Exams

There is one exam in each of the two terms. Exam 1 takes place in the Fall term and includes all the material covered from the beginning of the year (lectures, readings, discussions, videos). Exam 2 takes place in the Winter term and includes all the material covered since Exam 1. Each of these two exams may consist of a combination of some of the following: multiple-choice answers questions, an essay, long-answer questions, short-answer questions, term definitions. The precise structure of each of the two exams will be communicated in class at least one week before the exam. Both exams take place on either a Saturday or a Sunday as specified on the course's Moodle.

Class Assignments

There are 4 class assignments during the year. Two of the four class assignments are unannounced ones and may take place at any time during the year. Each class assignment is worth 5% of the final mark for the course but only your best three class assignments' marks count. That means that if you have completed all four assignments, your lowest mark will be dropped. There are no make-up class assignments even if you miss one of them for medical reasons. Each class assignment may consist of a brief analysis or reaction to some of the very recent material covered in the course, including the readings. Each assignment will be one page-long and will take 20 minutes to complete.

Term Paper

The term paper consists of a 2000 words essay, or research report. For further information, please see the Term Paper document on the course Moodle.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is a take-home exam and is similar to an Open Book one except that it is written at home within a short period. It consists of an integrative essay of 1300 words covering the entire course and all its components (lectures, readings, discussions, videos).

No late submissions will be accepted.

Bonus marks

Students **may** obtain a bonus mark worth up to 3% of the final mark for the course by making a presentation of no more than 10 minutes on a pre-approved topic. The presentation may be based on either the student's personal experience that is relevant to the course, or on the course syllabus. The presentation should not overlap the course material. Presentations could be made at any time during the year but proposals for the second term presentations must be submitted **before** the end of the first term. As time constraints do not allow more than a limited number of presentations, interested students should email me a brief proposal as early into the academic year as possible.

Course Materials

- All the readings for this course are accessible online as explained in the course Moodle.
- Students do not need to buy any reading material.
- All instructor's PowerPoint presentations are posted on Moodle the day after they have been shown in class.

Course Content and Format

- Approximately 40% of the course will be dedicated to the development of the modern computer.
- The remaining 60% of the course will deal with selected socio-technical issue related to current digital technologies such as Privacy, Computer Crime, Artificial Intelligence and others.

Math Content

- Ontario Grade 10 level Math required.

Course Policies

- **Questions and Concerns** regarding the course should be discussed with the instructor during office hours. Brief questions may be addressed to him by email. Any concern a student might have must be first discussed with the course instructor before being escalated.
- **During an exam** only pen/pencil and paper should be present on your desk. All your other belongings must be placed under your chair.
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- **Policy for a Missed Class Assignment and/or Midterm Exam**
 - There will be no make-ups for missed Class Assignments. There will be make-ups for exams only if there are extenuating circumstances and the written evidence provided by the student is considered by the instructor acceptable to justify a make-up exam. Employment conflicts, family and household issues, vacation and other issues are not reasons that would warrant a make-up exam.
 - For an absence due to a health reason, you must use the form available at the following address: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>
- **Policy for the Missed Home Assignment.**
 - Late submissions will not be accepted. If you have extenuating circumstance such as a serious health problem or a death in the close family, you should contact the instructor no longer than 48 after the date the Home Assignment was due.
- **Policy for Late Submission of the Term Paper.**
 - There will be a penalty of 3% of the final mark of the course, for each day of lateness.
- **No oral agreement between a student and the instructor will have binding power unless it is confirmed in writin**

Copyright and Intellectual Property

- All the material presented in this course is the property of the instructor. Students must not:
 - Record lectures for non-personal use.
 - Upload to any website slides or any other material presented by the instructor.
 - Do not hand over to a third party any course material.
 - Delete all course material originating with the instructor once the course is over.

University Policies

Important Sessional Dates

For information of the sessional start and end dates, drop deadlines, and withdrawal dates, please see the Office of the Registrar website at <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/>

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Academic honesty requires that persons do not falsely claim credit for the ideas, writing or other intellectual property of others, either by presenting such works as their own or through impersonation. Similarly, academic honesty requires that persons do not cheat (attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation), nor attempt or actually alter, suppress, falsify or fabricate any research data or results, official academic record, application or document. Finally, academic honesty requires that persons do not aid or abet others to commit an offence of academic dishonesty, including intentional acts to disrupt academic activities.

Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist.

Academic Honesty and electronic devices during assessments (e.g. exams)

- Internet capable and personal storage devices of all kinds must be turned off, including vibrate. These and any other unauthorized material must be placed under the student's chair and should not be accessed at any point during the exam. Failure to comply with directive may be considered a break of academic honesty.
- See <http://registrar.yorku.ca/exams/tipsheet>

Please familiarize yourself with the full Senate Policy on Academic Honesty, found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

Please also familiarize yourself with the SPARK Academic Honesty tutorial found at <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Please familiarize yourself with the full Senate Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>

Note: Students should submit accommodation letters from Counseling and Disability Services (CDS) to the course instructor within the first two weeks of the course or as soon as issued.

Counseling and Disability Services - <http://cds.info.yorku.ca/>

York Accessibility Hub - <http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/>

Note: A student registered with CDS, and choosing to write with Alternate Exams, is responsible for making the appropriate writing arrangements within the timeframes outlined by Alternate Exams.

Alternate Exams - <http://altexams.students.yorku.ca/>

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents.

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/15/wo/kmHGekTpzKLX6XYKBYc8M/0.3.4.62.0>

Note: Students who will have an academic conflict as a result of a religious observance, at any point in the term, should make the instructor aware of such at least three weeks prior to the conflict.

For conflicts occurring during an official examination period, please complete the Examination Accommodation Form available at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf and submit to your instructor at least three weeks prior to the final exam.

Student Conduct in Academic Situations

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures regarding disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the website of the University Secretariat (<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/>).

Division of Natural Science Resources

NATS-AID

Free peer tutoring for students enrolled in Natural Science Courses.

See <http://natsci.info.yorku.ca/nats-aid/>

M-AID in NATS (Math Aid)

Free math help for students enrolled in Natural Science Courses (TA tutors)

See <http://natsci.info.yorku.ca/m-aid-in-nats/>

Other Resources

Learning Commons

The Learning Commons brings together key supports for your learning: writing, research, learning skills and career services. <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/>

goSAFE

goSAFE is a complimentary service provided to the York Community. At the Keele campus, goSAFE has two routes: North Route & South Route which will safely transport community members by vehicle from one specified hub to another on campus. goSAFE operates seven days a week, all year round, including University closures (with the exception at Glendon during the Christmas holiday closure).

Call the goSAFE office at 416-736-5454 or extension 55454 during hours of operation. Please give your name, location and destination. <http://www.yorku.ca/goSAFE/>

Mental Health and Wellness at York University

Outlines a variety of resources available to support mental health and wellness

<http://mhw.info.yorku.ca/resources/resources-at-york/students/>

Good2Talk

Post-Secondary Student 24 hour Helpline

<http://www.good2talk.ca/> 1-866-925-5454