

Course Outline

NATS 1775 A 6.00 TECHNOLOGY AND CIVILIZATION ONLINE COURSE Summer 2019

Contents

[Course Director, office hour, and contact](#)

[Email policy and etiquette](#)

[Expanded course description](#)

[Learning outcomes](#)

[Evaluation](#)

[Course materials](#)

[Course content and format](#)

[Math content](#)

[Course policies](#)

[Copyright and intellectual property](#)

[University policies](#)

[Division of Natural Science resources](#)

[Other resources](#)

Course Director, office hour, and contact

- **Course Director: Daniela Monaldi**
 - **Office hour: Wednesdays, 12:00-13:00 pm**
 - **At office hour, you may come by or call without appointment**
 - **Office: Norman Bethune College, room 308**
 - **Telephone: 416 736 2100 ext. 33601**
 - **Email: dmonaldi@yorku.ca**

Email policy and etiquette

- I will normally respond to emails in 24-48 hours

- Email me from your yorku.ca or my.yorku.ca accounts, as messages from other providers (hotmail, gmail, yahoo, etc.) often get caught and removed by the spam filter of the yorku server
- Before sending an email, read this Course Outline and the other information posted in the course website, including all the announcements in the Course Announcements forum. Most of the questions that students ask in their emails are already in these places. If you do not find an answer, then feel free to email me your question
- Please, take care to compose proper emails
 - in the subject line, write the course number and a brief indication of the email content (*e.g.*, “NATS1775, Question on Topic X”). In any case, do not leave the subject line empty
 - start the email with a greeting, as for example “Dear Dr. Monaldi”, and close it with a salutation, as for example, “Sincerely” or “Best regards”, followed by your signature
 - include your name, student number, and the course you are in
 - you may put this information in the body of the email, use it as your signature, or add it after your signature
 - write your full name as it appears in the class list, especially if you use a short form or another name as your signature, and even if it appears in the sender line
 - when writing a reply or a follow-up message, leave the previous emails in. If you do this, you may avoid repeating your personal information, I will know what we are writing about, and we will both save time
 - write in clear and complete sentences, avoiding texting shorthand. Proofread what you write, please

Course description

This course is an introductory survey of the history of technology from prehistory to the present. We will examine the development, the use, the meanings, and the consequences of selected artifacts and technological systems in different historical periods. Students will gain information and critical tools to discuss, analyze, and assess historical and contemporary examples of technological change. Among the examples examined are agriculture, time keeping, and urbanization in ancient civilizations; astronomical instruments and models; construction, communication, and military innovations in the Renaissance; navigation and commerce; industrial and imperialistic technologies; science, technology, and warfare in the twentieth century; digital technologies, the internet, and globalization.

The course is fully online and consists of assigned readings, online presentations, online activities, and online tests. Participation in all these components is required.

Learning outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to

- identify and describe instances of technological change that have had a large impact in human history
- explain the ways in which technologies are shaped by and shape society and culture
- analyze and compare historical and contemporary cases of technological change
- develop and practice critical skills that will help you to evaluate the impact of technologies and the claims that are made about them in our modern world.
- strengthen and sharpen your ability to communicate your thoughts on technology and technological change.

Evaluation

The course grade (Course Total) will be the sum of the following assessments:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| ● 8 Weekly Activities, 6% each | 48% |
| ● Writing Assignment | 20% |
| ● Test 1 | 16% |
| ● Test 2 | 16% |

Full compliance with the York University policy of academic integrity is expected. For more information about academic integrity, see the section on university policies below.

Every assessment will be graded according to its grading weight. The Writing Assignment will be graded 0-20 (in other terms, the maximum grade is 20), Test 1 and Test 2 will be graded 0-16, and the Weekly Activities will be graded 0-6.

For every assessment, the grade will be posted in your Grades table of the course website soon after the grading is completed. You can access your Grades table from the Navigation panel in the course website.

During the course, the number displayed in the Course Total line will be the sum of all the grades of the assignments already marked. If you do not submit an assignment by its deadline, your grade for it will be zero. To know your standing at any point in the course, divide the displayed Course Total by the sum of the ranges of the grade components that have been marked at that point.

Your complete grade for the course will be the Course Total displayed at the end of the course, after the grading of all the assessments. The Final Grade (official letter grade) will be assigned converting the Course Total to a letter grade according to the [York University Grading Scale](#).

For consistency and fairness, all the students in the class must be graded according to the same grading scheme. No artificial grade increase or extra assignment will be provided for any reason at any point during or after the course. Please, contact me about an assigned grade **if and only if** there is an error in the calculation or recording of a grade, or if you wish to request a

reappraisal (for the policy on reappraisals, see below), and do so within two weeks from the assignation of the grade.

If you experience difficulties that prevent you from completing any course assignment according to the schedule, contact me as soon as possible. I will give no consideration to difficulties that will be notified to me only after a grade was assigned.

Course materials

- Course Outline (this document)
- Course Schedule, posted in the course website
- Thomas Misa, *Leonardo to the Internet: Technology and Culture from the Renaissance to the Present*. 2nd Edition (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011)
- Other material posted in the course website, as detailed in the Course Schedule.

Course content and format

This is an online course. You will not be attending classes but will access the course content and will submit all your assignments through the course website in the Moodle learning environment.

The course is composed of 12 units and runs in the 12 weeks of the SU term. We cover one unit per week. For every unit, there are required readings and, occasionally, videos to watch, and an assignment for you to complete. I will also provide an online presentation of the unit. The Course Schedule, containing the detailed schedule of the weekly activities, and all the information that you will need to complete every unit will be posted in the course website.

This is a 6-credit course that runs at double speed. You will be doing in twelve weeks the amount of work that is usually done in twenty-four weeks. It is crucial that you keep pace with the schedule, doing the readings and viewings when they are assigned, and completing all the assignments when they are due. Ensure that your other commitments do not conflict with your regular attendance to all the course activities.

Course policies

- Questions and concerns should be directed to me, the Course Director. My contact information is in the top section of this Course Outline as well as in the course website
- Conduct during the in-class quizzes and tests
 - The only items allowed on your desk during a test are the test paper, your pencil, and an eraser
 - All electronic devices must be turned off and placed under your desk, in your closed bag or knapsack
 - The quizzes and tests will take place during class time. They will start at the start of the class. No student will be admitted to the test after fifteen minutes from the start

- Check the dates of the quizzes and tests in the Course Schedule carefully, and plan to attend them
- Policy for missed assignments and tests
 - If you happen to miss an assignment or test for a cause that is beyond your control, such as an illness or an emergency, notify me as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours from the deadline, and be prepared to justify your inability to complete the assignment in a timely manner with adequate documentation
 - In case of an illness, the required document is an [Attending Physician Statement \(APS\)](#), filled and signed by a medical doctor who sees you during your illness, and handed to me within two weeks from the test. The APS form is available from the [Student Forms page](#) of the [Registrar's Office website](#). The link is also provided in the course website
 - A note written by a doctor or nurse who states that you told them that you were ill does not constitute adequate documentation
 - For all other cases, "adequate documentation" means a document that provides evidence of your justification. There can be no exception to this rule. If, for example, you miss a test because you must attend a funeral, whether in Canada or abroad, you must ask the funeral director to write a letter to testify that you attended the funeral
 - Vacations of any kind do not justify missing an assignment or test
 - Employment conflicts do not justify missing an assignment or test. If you have a job, ensure that your work commitments do not interfere with the course
 - If you miss an assignment deadline and justify it with adequate documentation in a timely manner, you will be allowed to take a makeup
 - If you miss an assignment deadline and do not justify yourself with adequate documentation within a reasonable time, you will receive a grade of zero for the assignment
- It is your responsibility to stay informed about the course by visiting the course website frequently and reading all the course announcements
- General information relevant to all the students in the class will be posted through the Course Announcements forum. You will receive the course announcements at the email account you provided at the time of registration, and will also be able to view them in the forum. It is your responsibility to ensure that you read all the course announcements in a timely manner
- Your grades will be posted in your Grades table, which you can access from the Navigation panel in the course website. For every assignment, the grade will be posted soon after the grading is completed
- If an adverse factor, such as a disability, a protracted illness, or some personal hardship, interferes with your ability to participate in the course or to complete an assignment in time, contact me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. I will not take into consideration adversities that will be notified to me only after a mark has been assigned
- For disabilities and religious accommodation, see the section on university policies below

- Reappraisal requests: if you wish to request the reappraisal of an activity, test, or quiz, email me your request and a rationale within two weeks after the grade has been posted
 - The rationale must be based on the academic merit of the test or quiz
 - Examples of rationales based on academic merit are, “My answer satisfies the grading criteria *a*, *b*, and *c*”, and “My answer is correct according to the required reading *X*, page *yz*”
 - Reasons such as “I worked really hard,” “I feel I deserve a higher grade,” “This grade lowers my GPA,” or “I really need a higher grade” do not qualify as academic merit

Copyright and intellectual property

- Use of the course material is allowed exclusively for the intended course purposes
- Uploading or posting any part of the course material (other than online content that is already in the public domain) anywhere (other than on the course website when required) is a violation of intellectual property rights; therefore, it is not permitted.

University Policies

Important Sessional Dates

For the sessional start and end dates, drop deadlines, and withdrawal dates, consult 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](http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/), found at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

Please also familiarize yourself with the [SPARK Academic Honesty tutorial](https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/) 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/kmHGekTpzKLX6XYKBXYc8M/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