**Overview**

This class applies philosophical analysis to questions concerning technology. We begin with a brief examination of theoretical positions that are either strongly pro- or anti-technology before examining philosophical issues arising from particular forms of technology, including nuclear bombs, military robots, slaughterhouses, the Internet, Bitcoin, fMRI machines and artificial intelligence.

**Assessment**

Assessment for the class will consist of:

Two 1,500-word essays, the first due 5:00 pm Monday April 21, the second due 5:00 pm Monday May 19, first worth 20%, second worth 25% of the final mark

An in-class midterm on Thursday May 1 worth 20 percent of the final mark

An exam during finals week worth 25 percent of the final mark

Class attendance and participation each worth 5 percent of the final mark. NB: Students who have more than three unexcused absences will receive an attendance mark of zero.

**Readings and Schedule**

All of the required readings will be available on TED.

Week One: Technological Pessimism


Week Two: Technological Optimism


Week Three: War and Technology


Week Four: Slaughterhouse Design


Week Five: The Internet I + Midterm


Thursday May 1 In-class closed book midterm
Week Six: The Internet II


Week Seven: Bitcoin


Week Eight: fMRI Technology and Morality


Week Nine: Artificial intelligence I


Week Ten: Artificial Intelligence II


**General Information**

**Office Hours**

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or, if you prefer, contacting me via Skype. Just drop me an email so I know to go on Skype, where my ID is andy_lamey. I am also available by appointment outside my office hours. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

**Email Policy**

I will be happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses.

Please note that there are three subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.

b) Requests for the release of exam results by email.

c) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

**Submission**

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

**One-time Discretionary Essay Extension**
I am happy to grant each student one essay extensions of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD’s email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

For all assignments of 1,000 words or more handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be returned after those completed on time and will not receive comments.

Feedback

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information:

858.534.4382 (phone)  osd@ucsd.edu (email)  http://disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)
Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD’s policy on academic integrity is available at http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be made available on TED.

Technology in the Classroom

Until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class.

Waitlist

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

The Exam

All students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the day and time scheduled during finals week.