ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND VALUES (STSO-140-017)
FALL 2021

COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Instructor: Professor C. Jay Cappon ("Professor Jay")
Contact: *cjcsch@rit.edu*   **Office Hours:** In-Person or Virtual (FaceTime) -By Appointment.
Class Meeting: MWF, 108:1000am – 118:0050am, BOOORN (BoothOrange Hall) 140350

Course Materials: There is no formal textbook for this course. Instead, discussion topics on which this course is focused will consist of 27 article reprints. The reprints are available as scanned documents on the Content page of *MyCourses*, along with the corresponding discussion questions. Each article presents a selected current science and technology topic which has an impact –whether positive-, negative or both-on human society and values.

Course Requirements

1. *Attendance.* This class is highly discussion-oriented. In order to succeed, it is imperative that you attend class on a regular basis, read the material and complete whatever outside assignments are given. To reward you for your concerted effort to attend class consistently and show a definite commitment to the learning process, credit will be awarded based on attendance. A sign-in sheet will be circulated at the start of each class meeting. You can earn up to 50 points based on attendance. ***Policy Specifics:***
- Attendance records will officially begin at the second class meeting.
- In order for you to be considered present for a given class you must be present for the entire meeting. ***The only exception:*** if you have a documented note of an appointment (job interview, class field trip, participatory athletic event) that will require you to leave before the class meeting is complete.
- Sign the attendance sheet. Doing this on behalf of a fellow classmate is not permitted. If this happens, you will be charged with 3 unexcused absences.
- The only acceptable excused absences are those for college-related functions or employment interviews. These must be documented and evidence presented to me either before or shortly after the event. All other reasons / excuses will not

be accepted.

- If you are present but fail to sign the attendance sheet, you will be charged with an unexcused absence.

Absences	Points
0-1	50
2-3	40
4-5	30
6-7	20
8-9	10
10 or more	0

2. Discussion Participation. Because this course is a discussion and not a lecture class, your active participation is not only encouraged but required. For each article / issue, I will give a brief general introduction to the key themes, but then I will open it up to you for your input. To do this, the following participatory activities will be held during each discussion meeting: (1) a panel of between 6-8 randomly-selected class members will be asked specific questions. The questions are posted for the designated articles / topics on *MyCourses*. Each student can expect to partake in this panel discussion activity *five* times during the semester. Each panel discussion is worth a maximum of 10 points (*50 total panel points*), based on the quality of your response; and, (2) general participation outside of the panel discussions. This will earn you up to *20 maximum points*, depending on the frequency of your active voluntary participation. Thus, class participation will earn you up to *70 total points.*

3. Unit Examinations (3). These will be done outside of class. The first exam will be given at week five of classes and cover the first 10 discussions; the second exam will be given at week nine of classes and cover the second 10 discussions; the third exam will be given during the final week of classes and cover the last 7 discussions. *There is no final examination!* All exams will be posted on *MyCourses*, and have corresponding electronic dropboxes assigned to them. Each exam will consist of a selection of 5 out of 6-8 essay questions, each question based on material from the corresponding articles. Each exam is worth 50 points (10 maximum points per question). *Some Policy Specifics.* For each exam question, you *MUST* use the following format:

- *State the Question.* Use the exact wording as it has been used on the exam sheet. **(1 point)**

- *Opinion Statement.* Write a one-sentence statement that clearly expresses the opinion/ position you are going to take on the issue raised in the question or referenced article. **(1 point)**
- *Discussion.* Include any supporting information / facts / examples that are essential to support your position. If you use outside source(s), please reference them either as footnote or inside parentheses within the body of the paragraph. **(8 points)**
- Each question essay must be a minimum of **150 words**. Please include a word count at the end of the essay.

4. Special Project: Individual Sci-Tech Article Evaluation.

This project will require that you analyze a current science / technology article from one of the following sources: newspaper (D&C, USA Today, New York Times), scientific (medical / technical) journals, magazines, Internet. The article may involve an issue already discussed in class, or one not discussed at all. This project is worth a maximum total of **50 points** and will entail the following requirements:

a. Written Critique. This will be submitted electronically to a designated **MyCourses** dropbox. The critique must adhere to the following format, which consists of the following three questions (written as separate paragraphs) and corresponding points:

- **1.** What key facts / information were presented in the article to support the opinion / conclusion of the author(s)? **(5 points)**
- **2.** Were there any flaws (in the form of propaganda / bias / faulty reasoning) in the article? **(5 points)**
- **3.** Explanation of why you agree and / or disagree with the conclusions / opinions expressed in the article? **(10 points)**
- **4.** A list of 2-3 key questions suitable for class discussion. For examples, see article discussion questions posted on **MyCourses**. **(5 points)**

2) Electronic submission (via **MyCourses** dropbox) of the actual article (scanned copy or URL if Internet source). **(5 points)**

3) Oral Presentation highlighting the key facts presented in your article and summarizing your opinions of the article topics / theme. **(20 points)**

Some Policy Specifics:
- Analysis of an article used in class is not allowed.
- The written critique must be a minimum of **250** word (excluding the questions). Include the total word count at the end of the critique.
- You must submit a tentative title of your selected project topic to me

on or before Friday, September 24, 2021. A designated dropbox will be available on ***MyCourses*** for this purpose. I will inform you of my approval of the topic. Once approved, you may proceed with your written critique and oral presentation.

- Oral presentations will be held on the specified dates noted on the ***Class Discussion / Assignment Schedule.*** I will post a tentative student presentation schedule on ***MyCourses*** shortly after the ***09/24/21*** deadline. The first presentation date is ***Wednesday, October 13, 2021***.

- For each presentation session, **3-4** student presentations will be scheduled. To accommodate a 50-minute class time frame, this means a maximum of 10-12 minutes will be allowed for each student presentation. The presentation will include a 5 minute (maximum) question and answer period involving input from class members and the instructor.

- You may use any of the following for your presentation: laptop, overhead projector, or white board. Most will elect a laptop slide show presentation. I will make my laptop along with PowerPoint mouse available if you elect to use a flash drive device or place your presentation on Google / RIT email.

Class Discussion / Assignment Schedule: Fall 2021

Week #	Date	Discussion / Assignment
1	08/23	Course Overview
	08/25	1. Using Technology During the Pandemic
	08/27	2. Video Games and Mass Shooting
2	08/30	3. High Tech Takes on Mass Shooting
	09/01	4. Businesses Fight for Repair Rights ~~5G: The Benefits and Dangers~~
	09/03	5. Facial Recognition Technology
3	09/06	No Class: Labor Day Holiday
	09/08	6. Devices Ready to Listen in on You
	09/10	7. Automation: The End of Work?
4	09/13	8. Robots Creating Stress for Human Co-Workers
	09/15	9. Bringing AI to the Coronavirus Fight
	09/17	10. AI Taking Over HR

5   09/20   11. Stephen Hawking on AI
       09/22   12. Cyberattacks on US Water / Power
       09/24   13. Cops Turn to Big Tech for User Info / Exam 1 / Topic Proposal

6   09/27   14. Eye in the Sky: Use of Drones
       09~~10~~/29~~02~~   15. Distance Learning Still an Option?~~No Class~~
       10/0~~1~~4   16~~5~~. Privacy in a Pandemic~~Cybersecurity At Your Fingertips~~

7   10/0~~4~~7   17~~6~~. The Dangers of Social Media~~Automation: The End of Work?~~
       10/0~~6~~9   18~~7~~. Wisconsin Senator Blasts YouTube Ban ~~Uber Drivers as~~
~~Entrepreneurs~~
       10/08~~11~~   19~~8~~. California Tackles Off-the-Grid Solution~~Cameras Keeping Eyes on~~
~~You / Evaluation 3~~

8   10/1~~1~~4   No Class: Fall Break
       10/1~~3~~6   Student Presentation Session 1
       10/1~~5~~8   20. Bourdain Voice Cloning Crazy~~Student Presentation Session 2 / Exam~~
~~2~~
~~___~~

9   10/~~18~~21   Student Presentation Session 2~~3~~
       10/2~~0~~3   Student Presentation Session 3~~4~~
       10/2~~2~~5   21~~19~~. Carbon Capture Offers Climate Aid~~First iPhone / Technology Firsts~~
~~/ Exam 2~~

10   10/2~~5~~8   Student Presentation Session 4~~5~~
       -10/27~~30~~   Student Presentation Session 5~~6~~
       10~~1~~/29~~01~~   22~~0~~. Focusing on Fevers~~Cops and Cameras~~

11   11/0~~1~~4   Student Presentation Session 6~~7 / Evaluation 4~~
       11/0~~3~~6   Student Presentation Session 7~~8~~
       11/0~~5~~8   23~~1~~. When Genetic Testing Can / Cannot Save Your Life~~Police Cellphones~~

12   -11/08~~11~~   Student Presentation Session 8~~9~~
       -11/1~~0~~3   Student Presentation Session 9~~10~~

-11/1~~2~~5   2~~4~~2. <u>3D Printed Homes as Potential Affordable Housing</u>~~Inmates and Drones~~

13   11/1~~5~~8   Student Presentation Session 1~~0~~1
–11/1~~7~~20   Student Presentation Session 11~~2~~
–11/1~~9~~22   <u>2</u>5~~3~~. <u>Improved Health Information Technology for the Deaf Community</u>~~Financial Advisers Using AI~~

-14   -11/2~~2~~5   <u>Student Presentation Session 12</u>~~No Class: Thanksgiving Recess~~
-11/2~~4~~7   - <u>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</u>~~"   "~~
-11/2~~6~~9   "   —— "

- 15   11~~2~~/29~~02~~   -Student Presentation Session 13
-12/0~~1~~   26. <u>2010: The Decade Privacy Ended</u>~~4~~   ~~No Class~~
-12/0~~3~~6   - 27~~4~~. <u>Dark Pages of the Web</u>~~Stephen Hawking and AI / Exam 3~~

– 16   12/0~~6~~9   Snow Date Make-Up / Last Date for Assignment Submission <u>/ Exam 3</u>

<u>Note</u>: The above schedule –dates and topics-is subject to change. You are responsible for keeping up with any changes.

~~**Evaluation Assignment Schedule**~~

~~Evaluation #~~	~~Discussion #s*~~	~~Due Date**~~
~~1~~	~~1-5~~	~~09/14~~
~~2~~	~~6-10~~	~~09/27~~
~~3~~	~~11-15~~	~~10/11~~
~~4~~	~~16-20~~	~~11/04~~

~~*Select one of the articles discussed during this tri-weekly period.~~
~~**On or before 11pm of this date.~~

Examination Assignment Schedule

Examination #	Discussion #s	Due Date*
1	1-10~~8~~	~~–~~09/24~~0~~
2	~~–~~ 11-~~9~~-20~~16~~	10/22~~18~~
3	21~~17~~-27~~4~~	_12/03~~6~~

*On or before 11 pm of this date.

Course Policies and Documentation

1. ***Assignment Submission Policy: ~~Evaluation /~~ Exams / Sci-Tech Evaluation***
   - I will electronically acknowledge the grade and provide feedback for any submitted assignment.
   - If you encounter problems with submission using **MyCourses**, please either: (1) submit the assignment file to my RIT campus email; or, (2) print a hard copy and submit it to me in class.
   - The required document formats are: **MS Word, pdf.**
   - Assignment must be submitted on time to receive full credit. An automatic late penalty of 1~~2~~0% will be deducted from late assignments.
   - It is your responsibility to see that each assignment is submitted on a timely basis. *I will not inform you if you fail to submit an assignment.*
   - **No late assignments will be accepted after Wednes~~Mon~~day, December 0~~8~~9, 202~~19~~1. _Note:_**
   Last day to drop with a grade of "W" is 11/0~~5~~8/21~~18~~.

   2. ***Course Grading Policy.*** Your final course grade will be determined from the following components and weightings:

Component	Points
Attendance	50
Participation	70 (50-panel; 20-open class)
Examinations	15~~2~~0
~~Evaluations~~	~~60~~
Special Project	50
Total Points:	3~~2~~50

Assignment of Letter Grade:

Grade	Points	Refined Grading Scale
A	298~~326~~-3~~25~~0	930-1000
A-	-288~~315~~-297~~325~~	900-929
B+	278~~305~~-287~~314~~	870-899
B	266~~291~~-277~~304~~	830-869
B-	-2~~56~~~~80~~-2~~65~~	800-829~~90~~
C+	24~~670~~-2~~55~~	770-799~~79~~
C	23~~456~~-2~~45~~	730-769~~69~~
C-	-22~~445~~-23~~355~~	700-729
D	192~~210~~-2~~23~~	600-69~~944~~
F	<192	<600~~210~~

3. Classroom Environment / Etiquette. All members of the RIT community are expected to treat their fellow students and instructors with respect and courtesy. To this end, it is mandatory that you turn off all cell phones and listening devices, and avoid talking during class. You may use a laptop computer for class-related activities only, such as checking on online readings or websites related to the discussion topic. If you are expecting an emergency call during class that requires you to leave, please inform me of this before the start of class.

4. Communication. If I need to contact the class in case of an emergency I will post an announcement to the website and/or e-mail all registered students. If you do not check your RIT account regularly, please ask the ITS staff to forward your e-mail to the account you do use. To maximize your success, check your RIT e-mail regularly and inform your instructors of absences, missed assignments, and any other issues of concern.

5. 4. _Academic Misconduct: Cheating / Plagiarism._ Rochester Institute of Technology does not condone any form of academic dishonesty. Any act of improperly representing another person's work as one's own is construed as an act of academic dishonesty. These acts include, but are not limited to, plagiarism in any form, or use of information and materials not authorized by the instructor during an examination. If a faculty member judges a student to be guilty of some form of academic dishonesty, the student may be given a failing grade for that piece of work or for the course, depending upon the severity of the misconduct. If the student believes the action by the instructor to be incorrect or the penalty too severe, appeal may be made to the Academic Conduct Committee of the college in which the course is offered. ~~Presenting someone else's work as your own or failing to cite another person's work properly is forbidden and may result in failure of the assignment in question and / or report of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct policies, as described in the _RIT Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook_, will be enforced.~~ If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, do not hesitate to ask. You will be expected to become familiar with and abide by the _**Academic Honesty Policy**_ as stated in the above handbook. This policy may be reviewed at:

_http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct/rr_academicdishonesty.php_

65. _Students With Disabilities._ If you have a disability which may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should make the necessary arrangements within the first week of classes to ensure full participation. RIT is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request accommodations such as note~~θ~~-taking services or testing modifications, contact the _**Disability Services Office**_ (SAU-Room 1150; _www.rit.edu/dso_), and see me after receiving accommodation approval so that we can work out whatever arrangement is necessary.~~.~~

7. _Additional resources:_ RIT is committed to providing a safe learning environment, free of harassment and discrimination, as articulated in our university policies. RIT's policies require faculty to share information about incidents of gender-based discrimination and harassment with RIT's Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators, regardless of whether the incidents are stated to them in person or shared by students as part of their coursework. Confidential assistance is also available via the following RIT resources:

Center for Women and Gender	Campus Center, Room 1760	585-475-7464
Campus Advocacy Response and Support (CARES)	Campus Center, Room 1760	call or text 585-295-3533

Student Health Center	August Health Center, 1st floor	585-475-2255
Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS)	August Health Center, Room 2100	585-475-2261
Ombuds Office	Student Auxiliary Union, Room 1114	585-475-7200
Center for Religious Life	Schmitt Interfaith Center, Room 1400	585-475-2137
NTID Counseling and Academic Advising Services	Lyndon B. Johnson, 2nd floor	585-475-6468 (v) 585-286-4070 (vp)
RIT FoodShare Center	113 Riverknoll (next to laundry room)	Share the Love with RIT Foodshare | Bricks | RIT
RIT Public Safety	Emergency: 585-475-3333; General: 585-475-2853l Text: 585-205-8333	
	Additional Community Resources:	
RIT University Policies	Governance Policy Library | University Policies | RIT	
Monroe County Rape Crisis Service	585-546-2777 (24 hours); 585-546-7582 (TTY); Contact Restore – RESTORE	
Monroe County Voter Registration	Voter Registration	
College Student Voting Information	How to Vote in College	
How to confirm that you're registered to vote	Register2Vote.org | Confirm, update, & register to vote in under 2 minutes	

Information about completing an immersion or minor in Environmental Studies or Science, Technology, and Society:

- Environmental Studies Immersion | College of Liberal Arts | RIT (3 courses; code *ENVIST-IM*)
- Environmental Studies Minor | College of Liberal Arts | RIT (5 courses; code *ENVIST-MN*)
- Science, Technology, and Society Immersion | College of Liberal Arts | RIT (3 courses; code *SCITEC-IM*)
- Science, Technology, and Society Minor | College of Liberal Arts | RIT (5 courses; code *STS-MN*)

Information about the Aberg Family Fellowship:
The Aberg Family Fellowship consists of up to $5,000 to cover expenses incurred between a faculty member in the Department of Science, Technology, and Society and a student mentee to allow for an enhanced learning experience. Keep an eye out for the call for applications!

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This syllabus is created as a firm guide for this course. In specific situations the instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus during the course. Changes will be announced in class and e-mail notification via **MyCourses**.