I. Science, Technology and Neoliberalism

A. Neoliberalism and Science

1. Science is autonomous

a. independent

b. guided only by the spirit of discovery, curiosity and the human desire to know

c. proceeds by scientific method aka empiricism

i. governed by rules: questioning, observation, experimentation

ii. method guarantees: objectivity

iii. discovers knowledge-Truth- about reality.

d. scientific knowledge is universal.

2. Science has and instrumental value

a. gives us power over nature through the ability to predict and control

b. scientific discoveries lead to technological development

B. Neoliberal Theory and Technology: Instrumental Theory of Technology

1. Technology is an instrument (tool or technique) for making the world a better place.

2. Technology is autonomous: Technologies and techniques are results of the imaginative and innovative application of scientific knowledge

4. Technology is universally applicable

5. Globalization necessarily involves technology transfer

6. Free market+science+technology=utopia

a. disease: drugs, diagnostic techniques, surgical tools and techniques, genetic therapy

b. hunger: GMOs, pesticides, fertilizers

c. communication and social interaction: satellites, computers, cell phones, internet

d. technologies of production

e. leisure: automation, robotic butlers, movies, television, internet

f. defense: satellites, lasers, drones,

g. education: computers, internet, smart podiums, Blackboard, on line courses, on line universities

h. algorithms, AI

7. Misuse, Unanticipated consequences and "backward peoples"