

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE Pilani, Pilani Campus
INSTRUCTION DIVISION

Course Handout (Part II)

Date:

In addition to part-I (General handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course Number	HSS F247
Course Title	Social Informatics
Level	2 nd year onward
Credit	3
Lecture Hours	40
Instructor-in-Charge	Virendra Singh Nirban

Course Description

This course aims to explore the multidisciplinary dimensions of Information Technology as it exists in complex social structures. Apart from functional and critical perspective of how information technology influences society in numerous forms, the course also aims to explore how society influences the innovation of information technology. The course delves into how information has evolved into a commodity for commercial and economic purposes. The course challenges students to think critically about technological change and acquire a more sophisticated understanding of the political, economic, and social considerations that underlie technological development.

1. Scope and Objective of the Course:

The successful completion of the course would enable the students to:

- (i). Understand that the design, use, and application of information technology in a social structure
- (ii). Be able to analyze contemporary sociotechnical issues from multi-disciplinary perspectives.
- (iii). Be able to locate primary and secondary sources of information on social informatics topics, summarize their content, critically engage with the arguments presented therein, and use them as evidence to create their own arguments.
- (iv). Describe a variety of social, political, and economic contexts that shape information and communication technologies (ICTs) and their impact on society.
- (v). Assimilate, Structure and Analyse various type of information as valuable data for social, political, and economic contexts

2. Text Book : Social Informatics: Past, Present and Future – Pnina Fichman and Howard Rosenbaum, Cambridge Scholars Publishing

3. Course Plan

Lecture No.	Topics
1-5	Intro to Social Informatics
6-9	Consent of the Networked
10-12	Critical Informatics
13-15	Infrastructure and Equitable Information Technology
16-18	Identity and Community
19-22	Hackers and Hacking
23-30	Ethics, Law, and Policy
31-33	Big Data
34-37	Privacy and Surveillance
38-40	Artificial Intelligence

4. Evaluation Scheme

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Mode
Term Paper and Group Seminar	TBA	30	OB
Mid-Semester Examination	90 Minutes	30	CB
Comprehensive Examination	3 hours	40	CB

5. Chamber Consultation Hours: Email appointment is mandatory.

Virendra Singh Nirban
Instructor In-charge