**LBST 2213 (ANTH): Science, Technology, and Society**

Fall 2020

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**Course Description**

***Class Meeting***: This class meets 100% online in an asynchronous learning environment.

***Prerequisites***: None

This course examines the interactions between humans and technology from an anthropological perspective. We will assess the role of technology in human reproduction, aging, disability, kinship, and social infrastructure. In addition, we will learn how humans throughout history have devised scientific theories and applied them to the development of new technological inventions and institutions. *Credit Hours: 3.0*

**Required Materials**

All course readings, films, and other materials are posted on Canvas. You will not need to purchase any additional materials.

## ****Technology Requirements****

## To succeed in this course, you will need regular access to the following hardware and software:

* A desktop or laptop computer with consistent high-speed access to the internet (can be purchased at a discount in [NinerTech](https://ninertech.uncc.edu/) store in Student Union).
* Adobe Flash Player ([download for free](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/))
* Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint ([download for free](https://spaces.uncc.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=25199020))
* Adobe Reader ([download for free](https://get.adobe.com/reader/))

**Course Goals**

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the major roles of technology in human societies.
2. Understand the ways in which scientific theories are developed and accepted as facts.
3. Give examples of technical objects and their social functions.
4. Communicate and collaborate with peers in an online learning environment.

**Course Requirements**

Student performance will be assessed using the following assignments, totaling 500 points:

**Quizzes (5):** 20 points each (100 total) *or* 20%

**Reading and Video Responses (5):** 10 points each (50 total) *or* 10%

**Projects (5):** 20 points each (100 total) *or* 20%

**Discussion Boards (15):** 10 points each (150 total) *or* 30%

**Final Exam:** 100 points *or* 20%

**Course Policies and Assessment Methods**

**Coursework Modules:** This course consists of five major modules, each of which is three weeks long. Each unit consist of one **quiz** (to be completed in the first week of the module), one **reading or video response** (to be completed in the second week of the module), and one **module** **project** (to be completed in the third week of the module). This means that you will submit one module assignment per week, in addition to the weekly discussion boards. Each assignment is expected to take you between thirty and ninety minutes to complete, so you should expect to spend three to four hours per week on the course activities, in addition to any time you choose to spend studying the material and reviewing for the final exam. **The deadline for each weekly assignment is Friday at 11:59pm.**

**Discussion Boards:** You will be assigned a discussion group for the semester. Each week, you will participate in a discussion board with your group members, though *you will be graded individually*. To receive credit for each discussion board, you will be required to make one original post and respond to two group mates. **The deadline for original posts is Friday at 11:59pm. The deadline for responses is Sunday at 11:59pm.** See Canvas for further instructions, prompts, and rubrics.

**Late Work Policy:** If you are unable to submit an assignment by its due date, you may submit it any time before December 16 at 11:59pm. Late assignments that have not been granted an extension will be worth half (50%) credit. **In the event of a medical or personal emergency, please contact the instructor to request extensions and accommodations.**

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be open on Canvas from 12:00am on December 16, 2020 until 11:59pm on December 21, 2020. The final exam will have no time limit, and you are welcome to reference materials from the course while taking the exam. However, **you may not reference outside materials or share answers with classmates.** This is considered an academic integrity violation, and will be addressed according to the [UNC Charlotte policy on academic integrity](https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407).

**Extra Credit:** If an extra credit opportunity is offered, it will be extended to everyone in the class. Please do not email the instructor to request an individual extra credit opportunity.

**University Policies**

**Grading Scale**

**A** 90-100% Outstanding, exceeds expectations

**B** 80-89% Good, above expectations

**C** 70-79% Satisfactory, meets expectations

**D** 60-69% Poor, below expectations

**F** Below 60% Unsatisfactory, does not meet expectations

**Withdrawals:** Students are expected to complete all courses for which they are registered at the close of the add/drop period on Monday, September 14, 2020.  If you are concerned about your ability to succeed in this course, it is important to make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible. You should also review the [University policy](https://provost.uncc.edu/policies-procedures/academic-policies-and-procedures/withdrawal-cancellation-enrollment-and-effects) on withdrawal to see how withdrawal affects your financial aid, which is listed under item D. Please also note that undergraduate students may only receive a grade of W in up to 16 credit hours of coursework. If you have already reached this limit, but feel that your best or only choice is to withdraw from this or another course, you can [apply for withdrawal with an extenuating circumstance](https://withdrawal.uncc.edu/).

\*\*\***The latest date to withdraw from this course is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.\*\*\***

**Incompletes:** The grade of I is assigned at the discretion of the instructor when a student who is otherwise passing has not, due to circumstances beyond his/her control, completed all the work in the course.  The missing work must be completed by the deadline specified by the instructor, and no later than 12 months after the original deadline. If the I is not removed during the specified time, a grade of F, U, or N, as appropriate, is automatically assigned. The grade of I cannot be removed by enrolling again in the same course, and students should not re-enroll in a course in which they have been assigned the grade of I. More information can be found [here](https://provost.uncc.edu/policies-procedures/academic-policies-and-procedures/grading).

**Academic Integrity: Students are expected to abide by the UNC Charlotte** [Code of Student Academic Integrity](https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407)**.** Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, the following: a reduced or failing grade on the assignment; a reduced or failing grade in the course; a formal warning; required participation in a non-credit course or workshop on academic ethics and integrity; reflection letter addressing the harm (intended or unintended) by the student’s actions; resource referral to the University Writing Center. The University’s complete Academic Integrity policy is available [here](https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407), as well as on the Canvas page for this course.

## ****Code of Student Responsibility:**** The purpose of the Code of Student Responsibility (the Code) is to protect the campus community and to maintain an environment conducive to learning. University rules for student conduct are discussed in detail. The procedures followed for any Student, Student Organization or Group charged with a violation of the Code, including the right to a hearing before a Hearing Panel or Administrative Hearing Officer, are fully described [here](https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-406).

**Accessibility:** UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please send me your accommodation letter as early as possible. You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss the accommodations outlined in your letter. Accommodations are not retroactive, and will not begin until you notify me by providing theLetter of Accommodation. In other words, a Letter of Accommodation will not grant you an exemption, grade change, extension, or other accommodation on work done prior to the date the letter was issued and you deliver it to me. For more information on accommodations, contact the [Office of Disability Services](https://ds.uncc.edu/students) (Fretwell 230) at [disability@uncc.edu](mailto:disability@uncc.edu) or 704-687-0040.

**COVID-19, Chronic and Acute Illness: If you have a health concern and are struggling to obtain documentation in time, please email me to arrange accommodations.****A doctor’s note is not required if you have been unable to access medical care or are waiting for a diagnosis.**

**To be successful in this course…**

This course is designed for learners in their first or second year of their undergraduate degree, though upperclassman undergraduates may also take this course. Material explored in this course is intended to be useful in the careers of both science majors and non-majors. No pre-requisite courses nor prior knowledge of course content is required, as this course assumes no prior experience with anthropology or science, technology, and society studies. Learners will achieve success in this course by keeping an open mind and a curious demeanor towards the course content, and consistently engaging with peers in the online learning environment.

***Please see the following page for the course schedule.***

**Course Schedule**

**Module 1**: **What is Science?**

Week 1 (September 7-13): Welcome to the Course

**Wednesday, September 9:** *Course Orientation* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, September 11:** *Quiz 1* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, September 11:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: Introduce Yourself

Week 2 (September 14-20): Ways of Knowing

**Monday, September 14**: Last day to add or drop a class

**Friday, September 18:** *Video Response* due at 11:59pm: “First Peoples: Americas” (PBS)

**Friday, September 18:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: Indigenous Ways of Knowing

**Sunday, September 18:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 3 (September 21-27): Busting Science Myths

**Friday, September 25:** *Module Project 1* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, September 25:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: Busting Science Myths

**Sunday, September 27:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

**Module 2: What is Technology?**

Week 4 (September 28-October 4): The Concept of Technology

**Friday, October 2:** *Quiz 2* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, October 2:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: “Technology: The Emergence of a Hazardous Concept” by Leo Marx

**Sunday, October 4:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 5 (October 5-11): Artificial Intelligence and Algorithms

**Wednesday, October 7:** Zoom call with Nick Seaver (extra credit opportunity)

**Friday, October 9:** *Reading Response* due at 11:59pm: “What Should an Anthropology of Algorithms Do?” by Nick Seaver

**Friday, October 9:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: Artificial Intelligence and Ethics

**Sunday, October 11:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 6 (October 12-18): The Social Life of Objects

**Friday, October 16:** *Module Project 2* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, October 16:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: “Do Artifacts Have Politics?” by Langdon Winner

**Sunday, October 18:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

**Module 3: Technology and Disability**

Week 7 (October 19-25): The Social Model of Disability

**Friday, October 23:** *Quiz 3* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, October 23:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: “Examined Life” by Judith Butler and Sunaura Taylor

**Sunday, October 25:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 8 (October 26-November 1): Human Enhancement

**Friday, October 30:** *Video Response* due at 11:59pm: “Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement” by Regan Brashear

**Friday, October 30:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: “Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement” by Regan Brashear

**Sunday, November 1:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 9 (November 2-8): Are Bodies Technology?

**Tuesday, November 3:** Last day to withdraw from a course in Banner

**Friday, November 6:** *Module Project 3* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, November 6:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: “Techniques of the Body” by Marcel Mauss

**Sunday, November 8:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

**Module 4: Technology and Kinship**

Week 10 (November 9-15): DNA, Reproduction, and Kinship

**Friday, November 13:** *Quiz 4* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, November 13:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: Assisted Reproduction and Ethics

**Sunday, November 13:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 11 (November 16-22): Assisted Reproductive Technologies

**Friday, November 20:** *Video Response* due at 11:59pm: “Fixed” (Brashear) and “Controlling Heredity” (PBS)

**Friday, November 20:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: PGD and Ethics

**Sunday, November 22:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 12 (November 23-29): Genetic Testing and Editing

**Thursday, November 26-Friday, November 27:** Thanksgiving Holiday

**Sunday, November 29:** *Module Project 4* due at 11:59pm

**Sunday, November 29:** *Discussion post and responses* due at 11:59pm: CRISPR

**Module 5: Infrastructure, Proposals, and Exam**

Week 13 (November 30-December 6): Infrastructure

**Friday, December 4:** *Quiz 5* due at 11:59pm

**Friday, December 4:** *Discussion post/reading response* due at 11:59pm: “The Ethnography of Infrastructure” by Susan Leigh Star

**Sunday, December 6:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 14 (December 7-13): Project Proposals

**Friday, December 13:** *Module Project 5* due at 11:59pm: Infrastructural Change Proposal

**Friday, December 13:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: Infrastructural Change Share Session

**Sunday, December 15:** *Discussion responses* due at 11:59pm

Week 15 (December 14-21): Final Exam

**Wednesday, December 16:** Last day to turn in late assignments for half (50%) credit; first day to take final exam

**Friday, December 18:** *Discussion post* due at 11:59pm: Final reflection

**Monday, December 21:** Final exam closes at 11:59pm