CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Laurie Shteir  
E-mail: laurie@temple.edu  
Office: SERC 331  
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday from 3 PM to 4 PM  
Virtual Office is always open via email  
Course Website: http://www.temple.edu/cybersociety  
Lab Assistant: Ang Cionci  
Group Movie/Video Presentations: Tuesday, April 19th – video is due Monday, April 18th  
Study Day: Tuesday, April 26th  
Final Examination: Tuesday, May 3rd, 5:45 – 7:45 in TL 6 (no exceptions to the date of the final examination)

Course Description

Cyberspace and Society is a Science and Technology Gen/Ed course and as such is geared to develop your understanding of science and technology, how science and technology are integrated and how critical science and technology are to policy decisions. This course's specific aims are to teach you basic science and technology principles and engage you in critical thinking exercises that take you beyond the laboratory and textbook to informed citizenry and decision making.

This course provides students with an understanding of the underlying foundations of technology that have an impact on their lives and integrates those principles with real-world activities. It promotes information fluency by giving students an understanding of the foundational concepts from which the technology is derived and helping them to develop higher-level intellectual capabilities for applying the technology. The class is broken into three sections - technology principles, technology's impact in society and labs. It is the combination of these three sections that will enable students to understand the foundation and the implementation of technology in their daily lives. Class lectures incorporating a myriad of digital technologies including computer hardware, readings, labs and student discussions will be utilized to integrate the application of technology and the impact facing society.

Course Objectives

Within the context of science and technology, the objectives of Cyberspace and Society are:

1. Develop students’ analytical and communication skills  
   - Assignments that require research, synthesis, and evaluation of issues related to the impact of technology in society  
2. Expand students’ knowledge in the subject area
- Class lectures, videos, discussions, demonstrations and labs will be used to expand students’ knowledge base of the subject matter

3. Develop students’ ability to make informed judgments in the subject area
   - Students will learn to synthesize the available literature and develop their own educated views on many and varied aspects of technology through written and oral assignments, classroom discussions and lab assignments.

4. Promote intellectual curiosity and life-long learning
   - Give students the background and the tools to enthusiastically support and encourage their curiosity and desire to learn more. The most obvious interactions in our students' lives involves the Internet and the World Wide Web, and we will use this as an ongoing backdrop to understand the components of technology and to develop an intellectual interest and sophistication in understanding analyzing it and appreciating how this technology may change.

5. Develop skills in identifying, accessing, and evaluating sources of information
   - Projects will help students develop the skills needed to approach and conduct research and make informed judgments based on that research. Students will be taught techniques for evaluating content and validity of information from various sources.

6. Develop ethics, citizenship, and awareness of current issues
   - Each segment of the course will cover the societal and ethical implications of the technology

7. Promote collaborative learning and teamwork skills
   - Group projects including but not limited to: debates and team research activities.

8. Develop an understanding of and appreciation for Temple’s urban setting and its regional and global connections
   - Temple is one of the most connected/wired universities in the United States. This will provide students with a firsthand opportunity to learn, understand, and appreciate how technology can affect local and global communities.

9. Develop students’ ability to analyze and interpret data
   - Research, analysis and debate on issues involving technology and its application throughout society. Students will learn to analyze the ethical issues surrounding the technologies.

10. Develop students’ ability to identify and solve problems
    - Students will identify a societal or ethical problem resulting from the use of technology. They will analyze the problem and formulate potential solutions with facts to back up solutions. The question may also be offered in reverse: Identify a societal or ethical issue or problem and discuss how technology can solve the problem.

**Student Competencies**

By the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

- Understand hardware, software and other technologies utilized daily; in computers, the Internet, home networks, and in mobile devices
- Critical analysis of decisions made regarding the use of technology specifically in the social and ethical arenas
Understand the impact of current technologies, as well as the impact of emerging technologies both locally and globally.

Website development (basic to intermediate skills) utilizing well-developed design techniques.

Understand how computer systems are used in society.

Ability to make informed choice while using the Internet by understanding and evaluating security and privacy issues.

Ability to analyze the positive and negative implications of current technologies.

Develop and refine presentation, analytical, problem solving and writing skills.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- 1 USB Flash Drive (without U3 software) – at least 1 GB
- The following recommended courseware resource is *Emerge with Computers* from Cengage Publishing

**COMMUNICATION OUTSIDE OF CLASS**

My office hours and email are listed above. Email is typically the easiest way to reach me outside of class or my office hours. You need to check Blackboard and your Temple email regularly during the semester. If you do not use Temple’s email system, make sure that you forward your Temple emails to whichever one you do use.

**GRADES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testing:</th>
<th>Quizzes/Tests plus a comprehensive Final</th>
<th>40%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labs:</td>
<td>Network Scavenger Hunt, Website Plan, Website (largest project of the course), Excel, Group Movie/Video Project</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology in Society:</td>
<td>Blogs, Debate/Wiki Project, Class Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**COURSE POLICIES**

- There are no makeup quizzes (or exams) unless there are unusual and unavoidable circumstances that I believe warrant a retake and for which you can provide me with documentation (dr. note, etc). If you are not present when the quiz is distributed (late/absent/whatever) you will receive a 0 for that quiz.

- Unless other instructions are given, all labs are due at the beginning of class one week after they were assigned. Assignments turned in late will receive a 20% deduction for the first week, 40% deduction for the second week. Assignments cannot be submitted more than 2 weeks late.
Blogs are due by 3 PM of the day the topics will be discussed in class.

Students with special needs: Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. You should also contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex.

The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02

There are three major projects: a group Debate/Wiki project, a group movie/video project and the website (individual project). The largest project of the course is the website. This course is a lot of work.

Cell phones and pagers MUST be turned off in my class.

You will be responsible for research on various topics. **Wikipedia, webopedia and other similar sites are NOT acceptable sources of information for this course.**

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION**
Attending classes is critical for you to be successful in this course. This is a discussion-oriented course. Part of the “class participation” portion of your grade is at my discretion and includes your attendance. Class participation is integral for this class to be effective.

**ORIGINALITY OF WORK and CITING OF SOURCES**
Do not cheat in this class. I take this very seriously as does the university!! This includes plagiarism. If you quote someone else’s material, you MUST cite it properly. This includes all material taken from the Internet. If you copy work from the Internet or another source, and do not cite it properly, you will fail this course. All of your work must be your own...this includes your lab assignments.

Students should also be familiar with the University statement on academic honesty found at the following link: http://www.temple.edu/bulletin/Responsibilities_rights/responsibilities/responsibilities.shtm.

I also expect you to understand and utilize the proper way to cite sources and utilize reference materials. There are many sites for proper APA or MLA citing – either is acceptable for this class. If you are not familiar with how to do this, you can get useful information from the Temple Writing Center or at: http://www.temple.edu/writingctr/handouts/citationguides/index.html
COMMON TYPES OF PLAGIARISM INCLUDE:

1. Direct copying from internet sources or texts without acknowledgement (not even in the list of references/bibliography at the end).
2. Direct copying in reasonably large quantity from internet sources or texts with citation or bibliography, but without using quotation marks.
3. No citation throughout the essay, with a list of references only at the end. No evidence of direct copying, but evidence of failure to acknowledge source of ideas.
4. Failure to paraphrase properly, leaving the original passages more or less intact, except for the alteration of a few words here and there.
5. Improper acknowledgement of other’s work due to incomplete citations or bibliographic references.
6. NOTE: Each of these forms of plagiarism hold true for all work, including papers, presentations, homeworks, student blogs and student wikis.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY
Students may withdraw at any time as long as it meets university guidelines.

FINAL GRADES
Final grades will be assigned as follow

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<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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