



The University of Western Ontario  
SOCIOLOGY 2106A-001  
The Internet and Society  
Fall 2021

**Instructor:**

Prof. Anabel Quan-Haase (Ph.D.)

Professor, FIMS/Sociology

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Lectures: asynchronous teaching **only** (videos posted on Zoom)

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:30-11:30 am EST, via Zoom.

**Teaching Assistant:**

TBD

Ph.D. Candidate – Sociology

Office: SSC

Email:

Office Hours: **Wednesdays, 12pm-1pm EST, via Zoom**



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

**Technical Requirements:**



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone  
(*suggested*)



Working webcam  
(*suggested*)

## Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during tutorial sessions or post on content after watching the recording
- Students can also participate by interacting in the forums with their peers, TAs, and the instructor

## Course Description:

This course provides a critical examination of the complex interrelationship between society and technology. The course makes students aware of the pervasiveness of technology in our everyday lives, creating and encouraging an understanding of how technology interacts with and is embodied in society. Technology is both the driving force behind societal change as well as the output of our technological imagination. It is this dichotomy that will be examined in this course. Students will learn about how digital tools have led to the development of a high-tech society characterized by customization, individualism, and privatization. The course covers topics such as innovation in the technology sector, Facebook, online surveillance, digital inequality, and immaterial labour.

## Time Commitment per week

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual asynchronous	Posted Mondays	1 hour	weekly
Readings	Chapters	1 hour	weekly
Exercises (not marked, to practice and solidify key concepts and ideas in the chapter)	2 per chapter	30 minutes	weekly
Office hours Virtual synchronous via Western Zoom	Wednesdays 12pm-1pm EST	1 hour	weekly

- Asynchronous pre-work must be completed [read assigned chapter]
- Attendance at synchronous sessions is required
- A recording will be provided for all lectures
- Closed captioning will be provided on audio or video recordings

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

*Prerequisite(s):*

None.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Students completing this course will

1. Demonstrate knowledge of social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of social experience, and assess them from a critical sociological perspective.
2. Understand the implications of theory and sociological research for interpreting social events and practices.
3. Read, synthesize and evaluate theoretical arguments and published research from a critical perspective.

### **Students Completing this Course will:**

1. **Compare and critically examine a wide range of theories on the complex interrelationship between society and technology.**
2. **Learn about how digital tools have led to the development of a high-tech society characterized by customization, individualism, and privatization.**
3. **Obtain an overview of the key approaches that are being developed to understand the complexities of digital labour.**
4. **Define surveillance as a multi-faceted term with great relevance to the Information Society.**

### **Required Text(s):**

**Quan-Haase, A. (2020). *Technology and Society: Inequality, Power, and Social Networks* (3rd Ed.). Don Mills: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199032259.**

You can purchase a copy of the textbook at the UWO bookstore (ebooks are also available) or online at <http://www.bookstore.uwo.ca>.

On Amazon: [https://www.amazon.ca/Technology-Society-Social-Networks-Inequality/dp/0199032254/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=quan-haase&qid=1594143942&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.ca/Technology-Society-Social-Networks-Inequality/dp/0199032254/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=quan-haase&qid=1594143942&sr=8-1)

On OUP: <https://www.oupcanada.com/catalog/9780199032259.html>

### Method of Evaluation:

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Course Weight</b>
Mid-Term	October 26	45%
Final Exam	Final Exam Period	55%
Total		100%

### *Department of Sociology Grading Guidelines*

Sociology courses at the 2100 are expected to have means in the range of 70-75% (As not to exceed Bs)

### *Tests*

There is one mid-term test and a final exam. The mid-term test consists of multiple-choice questions. The mid-term test will take 1 hour and 30 minutes and there will be no class on that day. The final exam will also take 1 hour and 30 minutes. The final exam is a 1.5 hours asynchronous test available on OWL. Students will have 1.5 hours to complete once started. A zero mark will be given to students who miss the mid-term test or the final exam without documentation. Please follow the steps outlined by the Office of the Registrar. Grades from the mid-term test will be posted within two weeks from the exam online on OWL.

The mid-term test and final exam are based on the covered book chapters, lecture slides, and lecture notes. Lecture notes are the responsibility of students and are based on the posted videos on OWL. All classes are taught asynchronously (posted videos) and students are expected to take notes based on the posted lectures (videos). Tutorials will take place synchronously.

Mid-term tests will take place online and students will have 1.5 hours to complete the test. Detailed information will be posted on OWL on how to access and complete the test. The mid-term test is a 1.5 hours asynchronous test available on OWL. Students will have 1.5 hours to complete once started.

Final exams will take place online and students will have 1.5 hours to complete the test. The final exam is a 1.5 hours asynchronous exam available on OWL.

### *Grading*

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

### **How to Contact Me:**

Please email me at [aquan@uwo.ca](mailto:aquan@uwo.ca) if you need to get ahold of me.

### **How to get important information:**

Please visit Western's OWL site for all important information regarding this course. If you can't find the information you are looking for, please email me.

### **Important Policies**

#### *Policies for Tests:*

I will not give extensions except under special circumstances. Please see the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). If you cannot make the test, notify the instructor as soon as possible, preferably before the scheduled date and present adequate documentation.

Medical documentation will be required to reschedule a test. Please send an email to your professor as soon as possible to make arrangements and submit documentation to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office (Social Science). No electronic devices are allowed during the mid-term tests or other aids.

#### *Policies on Examinations*

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only.

#### *Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness*

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

[https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html).

### *Accessibility Options:*

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html).

### *Scholastic Offences*

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

### *Mental Health*

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western ([http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

### **Course Schedule**

It is your responsibility to consult the course schedule below in order to keep up with the course readings and ensure you do not miss the tests. Sleeping in or misreading the schedule are not accepted excuses for missing a test. You can always consult the course web site for updates. The course schedule outlines the topics to be discussed each week, the readings corresponding to the lectures, and test dates.

## Schedule Overview

Week	Date	Topic/Assignment	Readings
1.	Sept. 13	Introduction to the Course: The Technological Society	Chapter 1
2.	Sept. 20	Technology in Society: A Historical Overview	Chapter 2
3.	Sept. 27	Theoretical Perspectives on Technology	Chapter 3
4.	October 4	Techno-Social Designing	Chapter 4
<b>5.</b>	<b>Oct. 11</b>	<b>Thanksgiving/No Classes</b>	
6.	Oct. 18	The Adoption and Diffusion of Technological Innovations  <b>CLASS REVIEW (CH 1 to 5)</b>  <b>Synchronous via Zoom</b>	Chapter 5
<b>7.</b>	<b>October 25</b>	<b>Mid-Term</b>	<b>Mid-term covers materials from Chapters 1 to 5</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Fall Reading Week/No classes.</b>	
9.	Nov. 8	Genders and Technology	Chapter 8
10.	Nov. 15	Community in the Network Society	Chapter 9
11.	Nov. 22	Technology-Mediated Social Relationships	Chapter 10
12.	Nov. 29	The Surveillance Society	Chapter 11
13.	Dec. 6	Ethical Dimensions of Technology  <b>CLASS REVIEW (CH 8 to 12)</b>  <b>Synchronous via Zoom</b>	Chapter 12
<b>Examination Period</b>		<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Exam covers materials from Lectures 8 to 12</b>

**NOTE: Because of the study break, we can't cover chapters 6 and 7! Content from these chapters will not be on any of the tests.**

### *Class Cancellations/Changes*

Please check Department of Sociology website (<http://sociology.uwo.ca/>) for class cancellations or changes.

### **SDC's Learning Skills Services**

Rm 4100 WSS, [www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning)

LS counsellors are ready to help you improve your learning skills. We offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.