



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
Sociology 2106A-001
Technology and Society
Fall 2025

Delivery Method: In-person

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This is a DRAFT copy only. Please see the course site for the final version.

Course Description: 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.

Prerequisite(s): None. **Anti-requisite(s):** None.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Participate knowledgeably in constructive discussion about the study of technology and society;
2. Describe the historical development of technology and its impacts on social change;
3. Recognize how theoretical perspectives such as technological determinism, social determinism, and the social construction of technology can be used to analyze contemporary technological issues;
4. Define key concepts related to the study of technology and society; and,
5. Explain relevant topics such as the digital divide, online relationships, mediated communication, surveillance, and ethical considerations.

Course Material:

1. Quan-Haase, Anabel. 2020. *Technology & Society: Social Networks, Power, and Inequality*. Third Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford. The cost of the textbook is listed [here](#). While the current edition is required, students are welcome to purchase a second-hand copy.
2. Additional readings and resources available on our OWL Brightspace course site.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course [OWL Brightspace](#) site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course. Please respect your classmates, teaching assistant (TA), and instructor in all communications. Your TA and I constitute the teaching team for this course. TA contact information and office hours will be posted on our OWL site.

E-mail. You can reach your TA and me outside of class through e-mail. If you have a more complicated question (e.g., differences between theories), it is best to meet to discuss. E-mail can also be used for addressing administrative issues about the course and arranging to meet. We will do our best to respond to e-mail messages within 24 hours. Please use “Sociology 2106A” as the subject line. Use your Western e-mail account.

Office Hours. Do not hesitate to visit your TA or me during our office hours. We are here to help with any questions you might have. This time not only serves as a great way to clarify understanding of the course material, but we also enjoy talking with students about sociology in general, educational pursuits, and career aspirations. If you cannot make it to my office hours, I will usually be around after class, or you can make an appointment to meet with me in person or online over Zoom.

Zoom is a webconferencing app that is free to Western students. Instructions for downloading and running Zoom can be found at: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/>. **IMPORTANT:** When logging in to Zoom, select *Sign In with SSO*. On the Sign In with SSO screen, enter *westernuniversity*, then click Continue. You will log in to Zoom using your Western user ID and password.

Classroom Etiquette:

We only have a short amount of time in each class to cover a lot of material. To help everyone stay focused keep phones turned off and put away, avoid whispering with your neighbours, and use computers only for class-related activities. If there is a problem with classroom conduct you may be asked to leave for the duration of the lecture.

Learning Resources:

Taking a vested interest in learning is the key to academic success. Some of the specific things you can do to help with learning in this course (and others) include: (1) Regularly attending class; (2) Staying on top of your readings; (3) Keeping good lecture and reading notes; (4) Meeting with your TA or professor when you need extra help or would like to discuss the course material on a more sustained basis; (5) Participating in the applied learning exercises; and, (6) Staying organized and developing and maintaining good study habits (e.g., reviewing your material regularly).

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs are not permitted during the writing of your tests and final exam. For the course’s applied learning exercises, the use of AI is not permitted unless stated otherwise by your instructor or detailed in the exercise instructions.

Electronic Devices:

Electronic devices are not permitted during the writing of your tests and final exam.

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Applied Learning Exercises

- You will carry out brief in-class, group exercises designed to extend your knowledge of course material through direct application of sociological ideas.
- **Missed exercises:** You are allowed 2 missed exercises without penalty. It is not necessary to complete the missed exercise or notify me about your absence. Given this flexibility, I reserve the right to deny academic consideration for missing more than 2 exercises.
- Counts for **10%** of your final mark.

Test #1

- Multiple choice questions.
- Duration: 1.5 hours.
- Written in class **Wednesday, October 8th**. Covers course material up to and including October 1st.
- Electronic devices, books, notes, or other study aids are not permitted during the test.
- **Missed test:** If you miss this test for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances, you can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Supporting documentation is **NOT** required. If approved, you must write a make-up test.
- Counts for **27.5%** of your final mark.

Test #2

- Multiple choice questions.
- Duration: 1.5 hours.
- Written in class **Wednesday, November 12th**. Covers course material from October 15th to 29th.
- Electronic devices, books, notes, or other study aids are not permitted during the test.
- **Missed test:** If you miss this test for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances, you can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Supporting documentation **IS** required. If approved, you must write a make-up test.
- Counts for **27.5%** of your final mark.

Final Exam

- Multiple choice and short answer questions.
- Duration: 2 hours.
- Written during the December final exam period.
- Multiple choice questions cover material from November 19th up to and including December 3rd.
- Short answer questions cover material from September 17th up to and including October 29th.
- Electronic devices, books, notes, or other study aids are not permitted during the exam.
- **Missed exam:** If you miss this exam for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances, you can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Supporting documentation **IS** required. If your absence is approved, you must write a make-up exam.
- Counts for **35%** of your final mark.

Course Schedule and Readings:

The reading list and weekly schedule is available on the course Brightspace site.

Academic 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 website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Copyright: Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Absence from Course Commitments: Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](#) – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html . Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is always required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described in the course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf> or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

Once the request and supporting documentation have been received and reviewed, appropriate academic consideration, if granted, shall be determined by the instructor in consultation with the academic advisor, in a manner consistent with the course outline. Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam, unless otherwise specified in the course outline. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup text/exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test/exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test/exam.

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty Academic Counselling Office.

Students who fail to write a make-up test or special examination will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

Religious Accommodation: Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence or University approved emergency during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Code of Student Conduct: It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize him or herself with its contents. The Code is available at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf. Sanctions for non-compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University.

Student Responsibility: Students in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and

that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) they may have taken. Students must familiarize themselves with the Student Responsibility for Course Selection policy https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf and the Registration and Progression policy https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf. Students are responsible for the successful completion of the Graduation Requirements for their degree program https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf.

Support Services:

Office of the Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

[Faculty Academic Advising](#) - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html.

[USC services](#) offers information about student the health/dental plan, Bus Pass, food support services, Peer support Centre etc <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

[Mental health](#) – Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

[Health & Wellness Services](#) – Registered part-time and full-time students can book a physical health appointment at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/index.html>. Additional on-campus services are also available <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/services/index.html>.

[Accessible Education](#) provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western, in all programs and faculties. Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.

[Gender-Based and Sexual Violence](#) – Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experience GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: http://uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

[Western Libraries](#) – Visit the many library locations on campus. Western Libraries provide access to material in physical and digital formats <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/index.html>. Research support is available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html>.

[Writing support](#) – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>

Bookstore: Search for Textbook availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search>