*Syllabus*

# Technology and Social Change - 50274

Last update 09-02-2015

<u>HU Credits:</u>   2

<u>Responsible Department:</u> Communication and Journalism

<u>Academic year:</u> 0

<u>Semester:</u> 2nd Semester

<u>Teaching Languages:</u> English

<u>Campus:</u> Mt. Scopus

<u>Course/Module Coordinator:</u> Nicholas John

<u>Coordinator Email:</u> [n.john@huji.ac.il](mailto:n.john@huji.ac.il)

<u>Coordinator Office Hours:</u> Tuesday, 10-11, or by appointment

<u>Teaching Staff:</u>
  Dr. Nicholas John

<u>Course/Module description:</u>
  As students of communication, we have a special interest in technological artifacts

*and arrangements. In this course we shall ask a number of concepts and issues that might challenge some widespread views of technology and society. These include: technological determinism; technological utopianism and dystopianism; the diffusion of technologies; technology and needs; technology, the state, capitalism and power; technology and gender; the social, economic, political and cultural context of the development and spread of new technologies; technology and values; and the very concept of technology itself.*

## *Course/Module aims:*

*This course aims to provide a theoretical overview of some of the more important issues to do with technology, society and the relationship between them, with particular emphasis on the Internet and new media.*

## *Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:*

*To critically discuss the relationship between technology and society.*
*To deconstruct popular discourses about technology.*

## *Attendance requirements(%):*

*100*

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures with class discussion*

## *Course/Module Content:*

*The issues to be discussed in this course include:*
*□ technological determinism;*
*□ technological utopianism and dystopianism;*
*□ the diffusion of technologies;*
*□ technology and needs;*
*□ technology, the state, capitalism and power;*
*□ technology and gender;*
*□ the social, economic, political and cultural context of the development and spread of new technologies;*
*□ technology and values;*
*□ the very concept of technology itself*

## *Required Reading:*

*To be taken from reading below.*

 *Additional Reading Material:*
  *By topic; may change*

טכנולוגיה מהי?
*Strum, S., & Latour, B. (1999). Redefining the social link: from baboons to humans. In D. A. MacKenzie & J. Wajcman (Eds.), The social shaping of technology (2nd ed., pp. 116-125). Buckingham Eng.; Philadelphia: Open University Press.*

*Latour, B. (1992). The Sociology of a Few Mundane Artifacts. In W. E. Bijker & J. Law (Eds.), Shaping technology/building society : studies in sociotechnical change (pp. 225-258). Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.*

תשתיות
*Star, S. L., & Bowker, G. C. (2006). How to Infrastructure. In L. A. Lievrouw & S. M. Livingstone (Eds.), Handbook of new media : social shaping and consequences of ICTs (Updated student edition) (pp. 230-245). London ; Thousand Oaks [Calif.]: SAGE.*

*Graham, S. (2000), Introduction: Cities and Infrastructure. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 24: 114–119.*

*Wu, T., & Goldsmith, J. (2008) Who Controls the Internet? Illusions of a Borderless World. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (especially Chapters 1 and 4.)*

לימודי טכנולוגיה וחברה
*Williams, R., & Edge, D. (1996). The social shaping of technology. Research Policy, 25, 865-899.*

*MacKenzie, D. A., & Wajcman, J. (1999). Introductory essay: The social shaping of technology. In D. A. MacKenzie & J. Wajcman (Eds.), The social shaping of technology (2nd ed., pp. 3-27). Buckingham Eng.; Philadelphia: Open University Press.*

*Wajcman, J. (2002). Addressing Technological Change: the Challenge to Social Theory. Current Sociology, 50(3), 347-363.*

*Mackay, H., & Gillespie, G. (1992). Extending the Social Shaping of Technology Approach: Ideology and Appropriation. Social Studies of Science, 22(4), 685-716.*

*Lievrouw, L. A. (2006). New media design and development: Diffusion of innovations v social shaping of technology. In L. A. Lievrouw & S. Livingstone (Eds.), The handbook of new media. Social shaping and social consequences of ICTs (pp. 246-265). London: Sage.*

Kling, R. (2007). What is social informatics and why does it matter? The Information Society, 23(4), 205-220.)http://bit.ly/5qW55(

Law, J. (1992). Notes on the theory of the actor-network: ordering, strategy, and heterogeneity. Systemic Practice and Action Research, 5(4), 379-393.

Blondheim, M. (2009). Narrating the history of media technologies. In M. Bailey (Ed.), Narrating media history. London ; New York: Routledge.

גלובליזציה
Sassen, S. (2004). Sited Materialities with Global Span. In R. Jones (Ed.), Society Online. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Sassen, S. (2007). Introduction: Deciphering the Global. In S. Sassen (Ed.), Deciphering the global: its scales, spaces and subjects (pp. 1-18). New York: Routledge.

John, Nicholas A. 2011. The Diffusion of the Internet to Israel: The First Ten Years. Israel Affairs, 17:3, 327-340.

John, Nicholas A. Forthcoming. The Construction of the Multilingual Internet: Unicode, Hebrew and Globalization, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication.


אוטופיות טכנולוגית (ותרבות אמריקאית)
Kling, R. (1996). Hopes and Horrors: Technological Utopianism and Anti-Utopianism in Narratives of Computerization In R. Kling (Ed.), Computerization and controversy: value conflicts and social choices (2nd ed., pp. 40-58). San Diego: Academic Press.

Segal, H. P. (1985). Technological utopianism in American culture. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Introduction and Chapter 1)

Smith, M. R. (1994). Technological Determinism in American Culture. In M. R. Smith & L. Marx (Eds.), Does technology drive history? : the dilemma of technological determinism (pp. 1-36). Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

Dinerstein, J. (2006). Technology and Its Discontents: On the Verge of the Posthuman. American Quarterly 58(3), 569-595

John, N. A. (2011). Conceptualizing the Israeli Internet: The Press, The Pioneers and the Practitioners. International Journal of Communication, 5. (http://bit.ly/qzTnRD)


ארטיפקטים ופוליטיקה
דרור, יובל. (2006) הפוליטיקה של הטכנולוגיה. מפה. פרק 10, ארכיטקטורה היא פוליטיקה (אפשר
לקרוא ב: http://www.text.org.il/index.php?book0604016)

*Winner, L. (1999). Do Artifacts Have Politics? In D. A. MacKenzie & J. Wajcman (Eds.), The social shaping of technology (2nd ed., pp. 28-40). Buckingham Eng.; Philadelphia: Open University Press.*

*Joerges, B. (1999). Do Politics Have Artefacts? Social Studies of Science, 29(3), 411-431.*

*Woolgar, S., & Cooper, G. (1999). Do artefacts have ambivalence? Moses' bridges, Winner's bridges and other urban legends in S&TS. Social Studies of Science, 29(3), 433-449.*

*Street, J. (1992). Politics and technology. New York: Guilford Press. (especially Chapter 5)*

*Beer, D. (2009). Power through the algorithm? Participatory web cultures and the technological unconscious. New Media & Society 11(6), 985-1002.*

*Course/Module evaluation:*
*End of year written/oral examination 0 %*
*Presentation 0 %*
*Participation in Tutorials 0 %*
*Project work 100 %*
*Assignments 0 %*
*Reports 0 %*
*Research project 0 %*
*Quizzes 0 %*
*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*
*TBA*