



## *Syllabus*

# *Technology and Social Change - 50274*

*Last update 09-02-2015*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Communication and Journalism*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Nicholas John*

*Coordinator Email: [n.john@huji.ac.il](mailto:n.john@huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-11, or by appointment*

*Teaching Staff:*

*Dr. Nicholas John*

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Course/Module description:

*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*

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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.

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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>)

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ארטיפקטים ופוליטיקה

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