

Science, Technology & Society Minor

Winter 2019 Course Offerings

COMM 174. Communication and Social Machines (4)

An examination of the questions that developments in robotics pose to the scholars of communication: How do we communicate when our interlocutors are nonhumans? How do we study objects that are claimed to be endowed with social and affective character? *Prerequisites:* COMM 10 and one from COMM 100A, 100B, 100C.

958718, M, 1:00P – 3:50P MCC 201 Alac, Morana

COMM 166. Surveillance, Media, and the Risk Society (4)

Contributions of the field of communication to the study of surveillance and risk. Critical and legal perspectives on consumer research, copyright enforcement, the surveillance capacity of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), closed-circuit television, interactive media, and the “rhetorics of surveillance” in television and film. *Prerequisites:* COMM 10 and one from COMM 100A, 100B, 100C.

958717, TuTh, 3:30P – 4:50P, WLH 2207, Gates, Kelly

COMM 106I. CI: Internet Industry (4)

The political economy of the emergent Internet industry, charted through analysis of its hardware, software, and services components. The course specifies leading trends and changing institutional outcomes by relating the Internet industry to the adjoining media, telecommunications, and computer industries.

Prerequisites: COMM 10.

958697, TuTh, 2:00P-3:20P, PCYNH 122, Irani, Lilly

HISC 115. History of Modern Medicine (4)

Explores the origin of clinical method, the hospital, internal surgery, and the medical laboratory, as well as the historical roots of debates over health-care reform, genetic determinism, and the medicalization of society.

959095, TuTh, 3:30P – 4:50P, CENTR 216, Gere, Catherina

PHIL 163. Biomedical Ethics (4)

Moral issues in medicine and the biological sciences, such as patient’s rights and physician’s responsibilities, abortion and euthanasia, the distribution of health care, experimentation, and genetic intervention. *Prerequisites:* upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

LE, TuTh, 3:30P – 4:50P, CENTR 212, Brandt, Reuven

SOCI 166. Sociology of Knowledge (4)

This course provides a general introduction to the development of the sociology of knowledge, and will explore questions concerning social determination of consciousness as well as theoretical ways to articulate a critique of ideology. *Prerequisites:* upper-division standing.

959260, MWF, 2:00P – 2:50P, SOLIS 110, Lampland, Martha

Approved by Undergraduate Student Petition

CAT 2B: Society of the Spectacle (6)

In consumer capitalism, we are surrounded and bombarded by images from the media and advertising. Commodities take the form of brand images. Celebrities are human brands. Politics is highly mediated by advertising and the boundaries between news and entertainment media have eroded. Propaganda is central to the operations of government and the control of populations, especially through the mobilization of public support for war. With social media, we construct virtual representations of ourselves. Contemporary society

can therefore be understood as a "society of the spectacle." In his path-breaking book of this title, Guy Debord argued that in advanced capitalist societies "all of life presents itself as an immense accumulation of spectacles. Everything that was directly lived has moved away into a representation."

In the course, we will read Debord's text and other analyses of capitalism, consumerism, and media, as well as reading science fiction literature, and we will view documentary and fiction film. The course aims to provide a space in which we can gain analytical distance from the spectacle and develop a critical understanding of how it shapes our everyday lives. **Prerequisites:** Please note that in order to enroll in CAT 2, you must have passed CAT 1.

LE, MWF, 11:00A - 11:50A, PCYNH 106, Thorpe, Charles

COMM 100B. Communication, Culture, and Representation (4)

A critical introduction to the practice and the effects of representation within historically situated cultural contexts. Surveys a range of theories/methods in interpretations and identity to understand the effects of these practices upon the form and content of various representational genres, and integrates scholarly study with production-oriented engagement.

LE, TuTh, 12:30P – 1:50P, WLH 2001, Serlin, David

HISC 180/280. Science and Public Policy (4)

This course will explore the evolution of the institutions, ideologies, procedures, standards, and expertise that modern democratic societies have used in applying science to generate and legitimate public policy.

959331, Th, 9:30A – 12:20P, HSS 6008, Golan, Tal

PHIL 27. Ethics and Society (4)

An examination of ethical principles (e.g., utilitarianism, individual rights, etc.) and their social and political applications to contemporary issues: abortion, environmental protection, and affirmative action. Ethical principles will also be applied to moral dilemmas in government, law, business, and the professions. Warren College students must take course for a letter grade in order to satisfy the Warren College general-education requirement.

LE, MW, 12:00P – 12:50P, SOLIS 107, Brandt, Reuven

SOCI 121. Economy and Society (4)

An examination of a central concern of classical social theory: the relationship between economy and society, with special attention (theoretically and empirically) on the problem of the origins of modern capitalism. The course will investigate the role of technology and economic institutions in society; the influence of culture and politics on economic exchange, production, and consumption; the process of rationalization and the social division of labor; contemporary economic problems and the welfare state. **Prerequisites:** upper-division standing.

959252, MWF, 1:00P – 1:50P, WLH 2205, Pardo Guerra, Juan Pablo

SOCI 131. Sociology of Youth (4)

Chronological age and social status; analysis of social processes bearing upon the socialization of children and adolescents. The emergence of "youth cultures," generational succession as a cultural problem. **Prerequisites:** upper-division standing.

959253, MWF, 9:00A – 9:50A, CSB 004, Thorpe, Charles