Technology and Society Interdisciplinary Minor Program

Check us out at: web.uvic.ca/techsoc

How to Declare Your Program

Students who are planning to graduate must declare their program by submitting a Record of Degree Program (RDP) form. Before submitting the form, please make sure that you have a minimum 12 units of completed course work, and that you have satisfied the University English Requirement. In addition, you must have met all lower-level grade requirements for your program. Record of Degree Program forms are available for pick-up at The Academic Advising Centre or download online.

The Program

Students in the Technology & Society program obtain a multi-faceted, customizable experience, allowing for intellectual flexibility and the learning of applicable critical skills that relate to their other declared areas of study. Additionally, through the core course offerings, students are exposed to high level political, social and theoretical thinking on the role and consequences of technological culture (TS 200) as well as a hands-on practical engagement with pervasive social and mobile technologies (TS 300).

Throughout the program, students also have the opportunity to attend faculty lectures on cutting edge technological research in departments across the University, lectures that not only provide an information forum for critical learning, but also have developed the community of technology researchers at UVic. This lecture series is given in the context of the capstone course for the Minor in Technology & Society (TS 400) in which students discuss "technologies of the future," and their relationship to the interdisciplinary learning environment espoused by the Technology & Society curriculum.

Requirements

Students may obtain this Minor by completing the requirements given below, together with an Honours or Major program or other degree program in another department or faculty.

Students in the program are required to take 4.5 units of core courses (TS 200, TS 300, and TS 400) as well as 7.5 units of electives chosen from approved courses, for a total of 12 units. If any of these courses form part of the student's Major, Honours or General program, it cannot be used to fulfill the requirements for the Minor in Technology and Society.

The program of study towards the Minor is estimated to take 8 semesters or 4 years (Minor, as completed within a BA, BSc or BFA). The Minor program will require 12 units, including 4.5 units of required core courses (TS 200, TS 300 and TS 400) and 7.5 units of electives.

TS 200: Technology & Society I (1.5 units, 3-0 hours)
Introduction to the Human Uses of Technology

What is technology? This course is an introduction to different approaches to understanding media, communication and technology with an emphasis on the critical appreciation of social, cultural and political impacts of technology on contemporary society. This course is intended to provide a general framework for understanding various forms of media (information technology, new media, biotechnology, immersive education, nanotechnology, GPS navigation systems, music, cinema, virtual reality, mobile, military and consumer technology, etc.) as well as a critical background for personal reflection on the changing technological faces of life in the 21st century. Emphasis will be placed both on understanding real world events for what they teach us about the human uses of technology, and critical interpretations of emergent technological uses of humans.

TS 300: Technology & Society II (1.5 units, 3-0 hours)
Networking, New Media and Social Practices

A production-based course which explores both the hands-on application of social networking and personal technological devices and their critical theoretical and social assessment. The course engages pervasive virtual and mobile technologies (iPods, Facebook, blogging, cellphones, etc.) for their potential contributions to personal, social and cultural understanding. This course requires both written and practical engagement with social networking and communications technologies for theoretical reflection on media practices.

TS 400: Technology & Society III (1.5 units, 3-0 hours)
Technologies of the Future

The seminar represents a capstone for the Minor in Technology & Society. The course involves presentations and seminar discussion of current research in technology and society. Drawing on faculty expertise from the University of Victoria as well as networked knowledge from around the world, this course will expose students to cutting edge research in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Engineering and Fine Arts by established scholars sharing current thoughts on technological change, innovation and visualization trends, aesthetics and cultural intervention as well as political and social uses of technology. Students are expected to attend scholarly presentations as well as in-class seminar discussions.
Electives

Departments and Faculties whose courses appear below have approved the listing of these courses as electives for students enrolled in the Minor in Technology & Society. While some of the included electives have substantial prerequisites, in some instances the departments or faculties involved have agreed to waive certain requirements in order to accommodate students enrolled in the Minor in Technology & Society (for example, the Faculty of Fine Arts Undergraduate Advisor has agreed to waive the requirement for a Fine Arts major needed for FA 305 and FA 346). Where appropriate, the Program Director may approach other academic units with a request for similar accommodations.

AE 322     Digital Arts
AE 422     Advanced Digital Arts, Prerequisites: 322
ANTH 304 Technology in Culture, Prerequisites: 100 or 200, which has Prerequisites: 100
ANTH 309 Visual Anthropology, Prerequisites: 200, which has Prerequisites: 100
ANTH 409 Applied Ethnographic Film, Prerequisites: 200 and 309, Pre- or co-requisites: 305, 200 has Prerequisites: 100
ECON 320     Economic Development
ECON 327 Economic History (North America)
ECON 328 Economic History (Pacific Rim)
EDCI 338     Mass Media and Education
ED-D 338 Computers in the Classroom
ENGL 401 Web Design, Prerequisites: 3 units from the following list with a minimum grade of B+ in each course: ENGL 115, 125, 135, 145, 181, 182, 215, 225, ENGR 240
ENGL 407 Computer-Mediated Communication, Prerequisites: 3 units from the following list with a minimum grade of B+ in each course: ENGL 115, 125, 135, 145, 181, 182, 215, 225, ENGR 240
ENGL 408 Electronic Documentation, Prerequisites: 3 units from the following list with a minimum grade of B+ in each course: ENGL 115, 125, 135, 145, 181, 182, 215, 225, ENGR 240
ENGL 412 Computer-Assisted Research and Reporting, Prerequisites: 3 units from the following list with a minimum grade of B+ in each course: ENGL 115, 125, 135, 145, 181, 182, 215, 225, ENGR 240
ENGL 416 Electronic Expression, Prerequisites: 3 units from the following list with a minimum grade of B+ in each course: ENGL 115, 125, 135, 145, 181, 182, 215, 225, ENGR 240
ENGL 466 Cultural Studies
ES 301 Political Ecology, Prerequisites: 200 or 300A
ES 380 Topics in Sustainable Communities, Prerequisites: 200 or 300A
ES 402 Global Issues in Sustainability, Prerequisites: 200 or 300A, and 301
ES 482 Advanced Environmental Topics in Ecological Restoration, Prerequisites: 200 or 300A and 341
FA 305 Theory and Practice in Film and Video Direction
FA 346 The Arts and Technology II, Prerequisites: Second Year standing and one 100-level computer science course or permission of the instructor
FA 335 Popular Culture, Prerequisites: Second-year standing
GEOG 322 Digital Remote Sensing, Prerequisites: 228, which has Prerequisites: 222 or Pre- or corequisites: 226 or STAT 255 or STAT 260 which has Prerequisites: 3 units of 100- or 200-level Geography, or 3 units of 100- or 200-level EOS
GEOG 413 Geo-visualization, not currently offered
GRS 376 Ancient Technology, Prerequisites: Second-year standing
GRS 377 Ships and Seamanship in the Ancient World
HA 370 Popular Film and Cultural Theory
HINF 335  Health Information Technologies and Standards, Prerequisites: 130 or 172 and 280 or permission of the Director, 280 has Prerequisites: Biology 12 or one of PE 141, BIOC 102, BIOL 150A or B, or BIOL 190A
HINF 350  Human Aspects of Healthcare Information Systems
HIST 317  Social History of the Automobile in America
HIST 341  Historians and the Computer: Theory and Techniques of Social Science History
HIST 382A  Scientific Revolution, 260 strongly recommended
HIST 382B  The Origins of Modernity, 260 and 382A strongly recommended
HIST 396  Topics in History of Science
HIST 481  Doing Digital History: Creating Microhistories for the Internet, Prerequisites: Third-year standing
HUMA 350  Key Applications: Electronic Publishing and Computer-Assisted Analysis, Prerequisites: 250
HUMA 450  Digital Humanities Project Seminar, Prerequisites: 350
ME 402  Technology in Music Education, Prerequisites: Admission to the BMus in Music Education or BEd in Music Education, or permission of the department
PHIL 331  Issues in Biomedical Ethics, Prerequisites: Second-year standing or professional qualification in Health Care e.g. RN, MD
PHIL 332  Philosophy and Technology, Prerequisites: Third-year standing, or permission of the department
PHIL 434  Technology and Environment, Prerequisites: 9 units of Philosophy, or permission of the department
POLI 430  Media, Technology and Politics
POLI 456  The Politics of Information
SENG 310  Human Computer Interaction, Prerequisites: 221 or 265 or CSC 265 or third-year standing in the Computer Engineering degree program, 265 has Prerequisites: CSC 115 or 160, CSC 115 has Prerequisites: 110 or 111, CSC 110 has Prerequisites: Mathematics 12 or MATH 120, CSC 115 has Prerequisites: 110 or 111, CSC 160 has Prerequisites: 110 and admission to a BEng or BSENG program
SENG 315  Information and Knowledge Management, Prerequisites: 265 or third-year standing in the Computer Engineering degree program, 265 has Prerequisites: CSC 115 or 160, CSC 115 has Prerequisites: 110 or 111, CSC 110 has Prerequisites: Mathematics 12 or MATH 120, CSC 115 has Prerequisites: 110 or 111, CSC 160 has Prerequisites: 110 and admission to a BEng or BSENG program
SENG 401  Social and Professional Issues in Computer Science, Prerequisites: Fourth-year standing
SENG 410  Media Applications, Prerequisites: Fourth-year standing in the Faculty
SOCI 307  Regulation and Social Control
SOCI 326  Social Networks, Prerequisites: 211
SOCI 390  Technology, Science, and Cyberculture
SOCI 404  The Individual in a Social World, Students are strongly encouraged to take 304 before registering in this course
SOCI 419  Modernization and Development
WS 337  The Body, Prerequisites: Second-year standing or permission of the instructor
WS 340  Indigenous Cinema: De-colonizing the Screen, Prerequisites: Second-year standing or permission of the instructor
WS 349  Topics in Film, Literature and Cultural Production, Prerequisites: Second-year standing or permission of the instructor
WRIT 306  Electronic Publishing, Prerequisites: Second-year standing
WRIT 330  Media and Culture, Prerequisites: Second-year standing