

Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Arts
Course Title:	TECHNOLOGIES, POWER AND POLITICS
Course ID:	BAKIP2003
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	(BATCC1001 or BATCC1002 or BAXDC1003 or FLMES1001 or FLMES1002 or SOCIO1001 or SOSCI1002)
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	(BAKIP3003)
ASCED:	090301

Description of the Course :

This course will examine the intersection of technology, power and politics from an interdisciplinary perspective. It will explore how technologies are the product of political and social processes and circumstances and how they in turn influence the production of particular political and social outcomes. Understanding the development of technologies, historically, culturally and politically, as well as through forms of media representation, further illuminates the cascading effects of technological development and their sometimes unintended consequences. The course covers a range of contemporary and historical topics, including the growth of computing and network capabilities in the cold war period, to present military concerns driving the growth in robotics and autonomous drones. Other topics on algorithms, big data, online conduct, social change, and the human body consider how technologies are used to govern, surveil and discipline populations in seemingly mundane and invisible ways. This course will discuss how technologies subtly shape our behaviours, lived experience, our identities and self-understandings, as well as our social world, including work, politics, play and conflict.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks..

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

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Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Understand technology and society as interlinked and co-shaping.
- K2.** Develop conceptual and theoretical tools to explain technology as a social process.
- K3.** Appreciation of the historical, cultural and political development of technology.

Skills:

- S1.** Review and contextualise personal experiences of technology, power and politics.
- S2.** Evaluate relevant key approaches, issues and debates regarding the nature of technology, power and politics in contemporary and historical contexts.
- S3.** Summarise key themes, theories and debate relevant to understanding technology, power and politics.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Apply advanced critical thinking skills to key debates relating to technology, power and politics.
- A2.** Utilise interdisciplinary approaches to examine issues of technology, power and politics in contemporary and/or historical contexts.
- A3.** Identify links and tensions between issues, debates, concepts and material objects relating technology, power and politics.
- A4.** Analyse how media representations of issues related to technology, power and politics frame public understanding, perception and debate about technological development and social change.

Course Content:

Topics may include:

- Technology and social change
- Computing and the Cold War
- Technology and the organisation of the mundane
- Trolling and online conflict
- Surveillance and control
- Technology and the future of work
- Big data and privacy
- Media representation of technology and social life
- Biotechnology and the human body
- Autonomy, drones and the future of warfare
- Artificial intelligence and the post-human.

Values:

- V1.** Importance of building an interdisciplinary understanding of contemporary societies
- V2.** Understanding social issues and critically negotiating diverse public policies
- V3.** Developing a communication skills in writing and understanding the need for argument
- V4.** Critical evaluation of and engagement with contemporary and historical theories and methods that examine technology, power and politics.

Graduate Attributes:

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FedUni graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	Students engage with interdisciplinary values, ideas, concepts, debates and perspectives that influence understanding of technology, power and politics in society	High
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Students develop their abilities to identify and understand and critically discuss the roles of relevant processes, structures, values and actors	High
Capable, flexible and work ready	Students develop communication and research skills through independent research and media analysis	Medium
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Students develop their understanding of the ways technology, power and politics shape daily life and how to apply this knowledge to ethical, engaged and responsible public discourses	Medium

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K3, S1, S3	Students will be asked to do a series of brief tasks over the semester which may include: quiz questions, response to stimulus and brief critical reflections	Periodic online assessment	20-30%
K2, S2, S3, A1, A2, A3	Students will pick one case study and represent a plain language presentation/recording of their chosen subject, accompanied by written materials	Case study	30-40%
K2, S2, A1, A3	Students critically analyse one or more media accounts of technology focus on how media narratives shape social debates regarding technology	Media analysis	40-50%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA