

**SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

**SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO**



Sault College

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**COURSE TITLE:** Technology and Society  
**CODE NO. :** TNY110 **SEMESTER:** 01  
**PROGRAM:** All Computer Studies Students and a  
General Education Course for any program  
**AUTHOR:** F. S. Turco  
**DATE:** Fall 2003 **PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:** Winter  
2003

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**TOTAL CREDITS:** 3

**PREREQUISITE(S):** Computer Literacy and the ability to effectively use  
Electronic Mail, ListSrvs and the Internet as vehicles for  
researching and educational delivery of this course.

**HOURS/WEEK:** 45 Hours - 3 hours a week for 15 weeks comprised of:

1 - 1 hour unassigned lab class per week

2 - 1 hour theory / lab class with the professor per week

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*For additional information, please contact  
School of Technology, Trades and Natural Resources  
(705) 759-2554, Ext. 688*

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to provide students from varied programs and backgrounds with a particularly relevant and timely appreciation of the impact technology and technological advances have made on every aspect of society. Technology and its implementation in society has its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This course investigates the social, legal, and ethical issues the use of technology raises.

The course is not intended to provide a bias either for or against any particular issue but rather an opportunity to examine all sides of the issue and appreciate the diversity of opinions and personal preferences.

We will discuss many controversial issues such as privacy versus access to information, privacy versus law enforcement, freedom of speech versus control of content on the Internet, copyright and intellectual property control versus open access and full use and copy freedom.

These and many other issues will require that students participate through independent research via the internet, electronic mail and recent publications. The student may also be asked to be an active participant as an individual and team player in discussions and debates using a multitude of mediums such as verbal, written, electronic mail and other technologically based mediums.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

**A. Learning Outcomes:**

1. **Appreciate the benefits and weaknesses of computer technology in society.**
2. **Describe the various legal and moral issues in a Canadian context with respect to privacy and information.**
3. **Discuss the legal and moral issues of relevance, reliability, safety, and protection of intellectual property of computer generated information.**
4. **Research the legal and moral issues of personal and professional liability as well as computer based crime.**
5. **Appreciate the social impact and role computers have in the workplace now and into the future.**
6. **Describe the issues of responsibilities and professional ethics in a technologically advanced society.**

**B. Learning Outcomes and Elements of the Performance:**

1. **Appreciate the benefits and weaknesses of computer technology in society.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- describe the computer revolution
- identify many of the common issues and themes of technology in society
- appreciate the benefits of computer technology in areas such as medicine, science, research, automation, disabilities, hazardous environments
- appreciate the weaknesses of computer technology in areas such as computer fraud, theft, displacements, downsizing, and a changing environment.

*This learning outcome will constitute 15 % of the course's grade. (Possible weighting strategy)*

2. **Describe the various legal and moral issues in a Canadian context with respect to privacy and information.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- define what the right to privacy and freedom of information legislation
- appreciate the amount of information available to creditors, to government officials, to medical professionals and the general public
- discuss the philosophical, legal, and economic issues of privacy versus freedom of information

*This learning outcome will constitute 20 % of the course's grade. (Possible weighting strategy)*

3. **Discuss the legal and moral issues of relevance, reliability, safety, and protection of intellectual property of computer generated information.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- define and describe the terms relevance, reliability, safety and protection in the context of computer generated information
- review and discuss the moral and legal issues related to wiretapping and encryption
- review several case studies on the reliability and safety of computer based solutions analyse various techniques that can be applied to improve the reliability and safety of computer based systems
- define the intellectual property issues as well as the copyright and patent laws in the Canadian context
- describe what is software piracy and what is its costs to society

*This learning outcome will constitute 20 % of the course's grade. (Possible weighting strategy)*

4. **Research the legal and moral issues of personal and professional liability as well as computer based crime.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- define professional liability and how it impacts software and hardware developers
- define and describe various forms of computer based crime such as sabotage, computer fraud, embezzlement
- discuss computer hacking and cracking and crime laws

*This learning outcome will constitute 15 % of the course's grade. (Possible weighting strategy)*

5. **Appreciate the social impact and role computers have in the workplace now and into the future.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- determine the impact technology has on employment
- describe the changes in the work environment
- describe the health, safety and privacy issues as they relate to this new working environment
- review the broader issues on the impact and control of computers in society - today and into the future

*This learning outcome will constitute 15 % of the course's grade. (Possible weighting strategy)*

6. **Describe the issues of responsibilities and professional ethics in a technologically advanced society.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- define what "Computer Ethics" is
- review various ethical theories
- define ethical guidelines for computer professionals
- analyse various case studies that define professionalism and ethics

*This learning outcome will constitute 15 % of the course's grade. (Possible weighting strategy)*

**III. TOPICS:**

- Note: These topics sometimes overlap several areas of skill development and are not necessarily intended to be explored in isolated learning units or in the order below.

	<b>SPECIFIC TOPICS</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE TIME</b>
1 .	Benefits/Weaknesses of Technology	2 WEEKS
2 .	Privacy and Information Issues	4 WEEKS
3 .	Protection of Intellectual Property	4 WEEKS
4 .	Liability and Computer Based Crime	2 WEEKS
5 .	Social impact present and future	2 WEEKS
6 .	Responsibilities and Ethics	2 WEEKS

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:****TEXTBOOKS TO BE USED AS REFERENCE MATERIAL:**

**NO TEXT BOOK REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS**

Additional reference material will either be given to the students or placed in the library for the student's use.

Handouts, Guidance, and Material as it relates to the individual topics. Use of research modes such as INTERNET, Library Data Base Searches, and articles.

**REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RESOURCES**

Participation & Teamwork  
Box of Disks  
Individual Research  
Documentation

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:**

Tests	30 %
Quizzes	10 %
Mini Participation Assignments	10 %
Lab Work	30 %
Minor Assignments	10 %
Major Group Assignment	10 %

The tentative breakdown is as follows:

2	Formal Theory Tests	at 15 % each
5	Quizzes (best 5)	at 2% each
10	Mini Assignments(best 10)	at 1% each
10	Formal Lab Exercises	at 3% each
2	Minor Assignments	at 5% each
1	Major Assignments	at 10%

Some minor modifications to the above percentages may be necessary. The professor reserves the right to adjust the mark up or down 5% based on attendance, participation, leadership, creativity and whether there is an improving trend. Students must have passing grades in the tests and assignments portion to pass the entire course.

- \* Students must complete and pass both the test and assignment portion of the course in order to pass the entire course.
- \* All Assignments must be completed satisfactorily to complete the course. Late hand in penalties will be 5% per day. Assignments will not be accepted past one week late unless there are extenuating and legitimate circumstances.
- \* The professor reserves the right to adjust the number of tests, practical tests and quizzes based on unforeseen circumstances. The students will be given sufficient notice to any changes and the reasons thereof.
- \* A student who is absent for 3 or more times without any valid reason or effort to resolve the problem will result in action taken.

NOTE: If action is to be taken, it will range from marks being deducted to a maximum of removal from the course.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 - 100%	4.00
A	80 - 89%	3.75
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
F (Fail)	59% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

## **VI. SPECIAL NOTES:**

### Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1204 or call Extension 493 so that support services can be arranged for you.

### Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course outline amendments:

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

Students must achieve a passing grade in **both** the assignment and the test portions of the course.

The topics will not necessarily be covered in the order shown in this course outline.

**VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:**

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

**VIII. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:**

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.

**ADDENDUM FOR GENERAL EDUCATION APPROVAL**

To be approved as a General Education offering within Sault College several key requirements must be met. The following are the criteria and how they relate to this course.

Course Criteria/Reference Checklist. Does it satisfy the requirement and how does it relate.

**Is the course 45 instructional hours?**

Yes and we will also be delivering it to large section sizes with the aid of technology and alternative delivery strategies. The research components and group work will for the most part be self-directed.

**Does this course clearly contribute to one of the following: the learner's personal growth, informed citizenship, or working life (as distinct from specific vocational skills)?**

Yes it contributes to all of these categories. It contributes to personal growth and the working life since technology will be an integral part of their time as students as well as employees. Regardless of the student's program discipline, the social, legal, and ethical impact of technology on society provides for student's making informed moral choices when using technology.

**Does the course guide learners through the historical context of the issues introduced, their theoretical bases, and their application to contemporary life?**

Yes a portion of the course describes why many of the controversial issues are in fact issues today by reflecting how we got to where we are based on the past.

**Does this course encourage support continuous learning through discussion, demonstration or practice in investigative methods used in this field?**

Yes this course in particular lends itself to continuous learning since there is no right answer but rather in many cases a moral judgement. We will continually discuss and research all sides of the issue in an attempt to make an educated and personal call on particular issues based on facts not strictly opinion. We will use a variety of technology based tools as well as traditional means to research and discuss the issues.

**Does the variety in assignments, evaluation tools and teaching/learning methods ensure that the general education outcomes are met?**

Yes as examples of the methods that will be applied, we intend to have electronic mail discussions on issues that students will both lead and participate. We will also research material on various issues via the internet and other traditional methods. We will also have reference material available on course related web pages.

**Which of CSAC's goal areas are met in this course? Identify the main goal area and any other goal areas that are met.**

Many of the CSAC goals are addressed in this course and its delivery method, however, several of the main goals in the order of relevance are Understanding Technology, Work and the Economy, Social Understanding, Civic Life, Cultural Understandings.

**Does the course deal with issues related to the course content, not just master of content?**

Yes, the course deals with issues of societal concern in a manner that is extremely relevant to the lives of all students even as they are continuously learning and as employees. This course is not intended to provide mastery learning or competencies that are exact and scientific in nature but rather an appreciation for the many issues that impact us all with respect to technology.

**Does the course provide opportunities for learners to explore questions related to values and ethics which are raised by the subject matter**

Yes, absolutely. We will be discussing and debating several controversial moral and ethical issues as they pertain to technology.

**In order to meet the aim of lifelong learning does the course provide transferability between programs or between colleges and universities?**

Yes. It is our opinion that the material and discussions we are covering are both timeless and timely in that the issues have been with us for a long time and will be with us indefinitely. They are also timely since the advances in technology and its impact on the workplace has made the issues even more sensitive and controversial.