

BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
CAS SO 277 / ENG EK 280  
TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

**COURSE SYLLABUS FOR SPRING 2006**

(revised 7 Feb.)

**NOTES**

This course features class presentations by a number of eminent outside speakers. Due to the potential scheduling difficulties of outside speakers, certain lecture dates and reading assignments may be changed. Furthermore, we have tried to arrange reading assignments to correspond to the subject matter of class presentations, however, due to scheduling difficulties with the outside speakers and the desire to balance out the reading load, this sometimes results in the reading assignments being somewhat disjointed.

The reading assignments listed below should be completed prior to the associated class meetings. Other articles in the books are excellent and recommended, but are not required reading. There will be additional readings given out as class handouts. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain handouts and information before the next class. The texts referred to in the reading assignments are available at the Boston University bookstore (look under ENG and CAS), and are as follows:

Teich reader: Albert H. Teich, Technology and the Future, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Thomson/Wadsworth, 2006.

Volti text: Rudi Volti. Society and Technological Change, 5th ed. New York: Worth/St. Martin's, 2005.

CI: Course Info site for CAS SO 277/ENG EK 280, Spring 2006.  
[http://courseinfo.bu.edu/courses/06sprgcasso277\\_a1/index.html](http://courseinfo.bu.edu/courses/06sprgcasso277_a1/index.html)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Jan. 17      Profs. Cole and Smith-Doerr, General Introduction

Jan. 19      Prof. Smith-Doerr, Technology in Historical Perspective, or There is No Culture Without Agriculture

Readings:    Volti Ch. 1, 8, 11.



- Feb. 23 Prof. Isaacson, Global Climate Science
- Readings: Teich: Ch. 22 (Karl & Trenberth)  
CI: Schneider  
Broecker  
Ausubel
- Feb. 28 Prof. Cleveland, Energy and Technology
- Readings: Volti: Ch. 6  
Teich: Ch. 15 (Lovins & Lovins)
- (Debate topics distributed)**
- Mar. 2 Prof. Howard-Grenville, Corporations and Environmental Policy
- Readings: Volti: Ch. 10, 16
- (Preferred debate topics submitted)**
- Mar. 14 Rep. James Marzilli, Politics and the Environment
- Readings: Volti: Ch. 17  
Teich: Ch. 23 (Abraham)
- Mar. 16 Prof. Smith-Doerr, Organizational Failure and Technological Risk
- Readings: CI: Martin & Shinzinger (p. 79-85)  
Teich: Ch. 16 (Martin)  
Ch. 17 (9-11 Commission)
- (Paper no. 2 due)**
- (Debate teams and topics assigned)**
- Mar. 21 Prof. Cole, Professional Ethics
- Readings: Volti: Ch. 15  
Teich: Ch. 6 (Florman)  
Ch. 29 (Rochlin)

Mar. 23 Prof. Smith-Doerr, Technology and Employment

Readings: CI: Cowan  
Teich: Ch. 8 (Wajcman)  
Ch. 28 (Zuboff)  
Volti: Ch. 9

Mar. 28 Prof. Cole, Impacts of Scientific Revolutions

Readings: Teich: Ch. 27 (Kapor)  
Volti: Ch. 4, 12

**(Term paper topic proposal due)**

Mar. 30 Prof. Smith-Doerr, Food and Technology

Readings: CI: Rodrick  
Farber

Apr. 4 Provost Campbell, Numeracy Counts

Readings: Teich: Ch. 9 (Cornish)  
CI: Paulos

Apr. 6 Prof. Yeager, Corporations and Ethics

Readings: CI: DeGeorge  
Teich: Ch. 25 (Forester & Morrison)  
Ch. 26 (Lessig)

**(Term paper annotated reference list due)**

Apr. 11 Class Discussion

Apr. 13 Group Debate | **(Note: Debate team position paper  
is due 1 week before your  
debate)**

Apr. 18 Group Debate |

Apr. 20 Group Debate |

Apr. 25 Group Debate |

Apr. 27 Profs. Cole and Smith-Doerr, Class Wrap Up

**(Term paper due)**