



Course Outline Winter 2026

SOCI/DIGH 2035B - Technology, Culture & Society

Instructor: Dr. Liam Kilmurray

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Times: Monday, 2:35 PM - 5:25 PM

Dates: Jan 5 - Apr 6, 2026

Course Web Site: Student accounts at Brightspace

Delivery: In-Person

Course Requirements

Students are required to regularly 'attend' lectures and to do all required readings beforehand so as to be up to date and participate in discussion. **Each component of the evaluation structure must be completed.**

Calendar Description

Introduction to the principal theories and methods used by Science and Technology Studies (STS) scholars to examine the social and cultural shaping of technology. The substantive focus of the course is on the design, development, production, diffusion, consumption and use of technology.

Also listed as DIGH 2035.

Prerequisite(s): SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002.

Course Objectives

From the beginnings of the human species technology has enabled adaptations and evolutions. Technological advances through time have structured, and been structured by, human social relationships. The 21st century has seen the rise of advanced technologies, in both industrial and domestic spheres. These technologies play an ever-increasing role in our daily lives and have social, political and cultural implications that will be explored throughout this course. This course will introduce students to the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS). Through examining a variety of technological case studies and learning some key concepts in STS, the course aims to help students understand the intricate relationship between technology and society. **Course objectives** include: an understanding of the three sociological theories (Social Construction of Technology, Actor-Network Theory, and Feminist Technology Studies) that are used to explain the relationship between technology and society.: a knowledge of the field of Science and Technology Studies, a sociological understanding of the history of technological and scientific developments, and a grounding in both Actor Network and the Social Construction of Technology Theories.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignment	Date	Weight (%)
Mid Term	Feb 9 th	25%
Take-Home Assignment	March 2 nd - March 16 th	25%
Attendance/Participation	Semester	10%
Essay	April 6 th	40%

Required Readings

There is no textbook for this course, readings are available as files posted on course website, as journal articles available in the library, through ARES, or as web-links.

Lecture 2 - Dan Hicks - Four Field Anthropology: Vol. 54, No. 6, December 2013. Current Anthropology. <https://www-jstor-org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/stable/10.1086/673385?sid=primo&seq=1>

Lecture 3: Ambrose 2001. Paleolithic Technology and Human Evolution. Vol 291 science www.sciencemag.org

Lecture 4 - Chofaras 2015: 'Science & Technology' Ch. 1, pp. 1 - 19 (PDF Files). Recommended: Marx L.1997: 'Technology: The Emergence of a Hazardous Concept'.

Lecture 5 - Sismondo 2010: Ch. 1. R = Ch. 2. 'The prehistory of science and technology studies. <https://books-scholarsportal-info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks2/pda/2011-12-01/1/14781.9781444315127>

Lecture 6 - Bijker 2015: Technology, Social Construction of'. Muniesa 2015: 'Actor Network Theory' (PDF Files)

Lecture 7 - Fanthome: <https://blog.castac.org/2021/03/assembling-an-actor-network-theory-archaeology/>

Lecture 8 - Wajcman 1991: 'Domestic Technology: Labour-Saving or Enslaving?' (PDF File).

Lecture 9 - Levin & Mamlok 2021: 'Culture and Society in the Digital Age' (PDF File).

Lecture 10 - Fonio 2007. 'Surveillance and identity Towards a new anthropology of the person'.

Lecture 11 - Furlong 2010: 'Small Technologies Big Change: Rethinking Infrastructure through STS and Geography' (PDF File).

Assignments

The MID-TERM will be held on February 9th, 2026.

The Take-Home Assignment will be issued on March 2nd and due on March 16th, details to follow early in the semester

The ESSAY is due on April 6th, 2026. Essays must be 6 -7 pages long, typed and double-spaced, in 12-point font (preferably Times Roman). You must include a title page that includes the title of your essay, student number and course number, due date, and the name of the professor. Your essay must include a bibliography (see course Essay file on website) which does NOT count as part of the page count. You must use the Chicago reference style (see below). A list of possible essay choices will be posted early in the Semester on Brightspace under the "course files" module.

Citation Style

The Chicago author-date citation style (17th edition) is to be used in the assignments and papers of this course. For more information, please see:
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

Instruction Method

The primary mode of instruction is the lecture format. Some lectures will include documentary film presentations. Class discussions are also an essential part of the course.

Internet Resources

Course web page (Brightspace).

Extensions and Late Penalties

Assignment extensions are granted only in cases of genuine need (e.g. illness). Requests for extensions must be made prior to the deadline. Three percent per day (weekends included) will be deducted from assignments handed in late without prior approval of the professor. No assignment will be accepted beyond two weeks past the deadline.

Absence

An absence from any examination or test, or late submission of assignments, due to illness, must be officially justified; otherwise, a penalty will be imposed. Reasons such as travel, employment and misreading the examination schedule are not accepted. Absence for any other serious reason must be justified in writing, to the academic assistants of the faculty, within five business days following the date of the exam or submission of an assignment.

Email and Internet Resources

This course has a Brightspace webpage, containing, gradebook, readings, lecture files, and email function. Emails that ask questions of issues already addressed in class may not be answered.

Academic Fraud

Academic fraud is taken very seriously by the Faculty of Social Sciences and the University. It includes, for instance, plagiarism, cheating, submitting work that the student did not author, falsifying a reference, or submitting (without approval) work which has been produced for another course. All essays will be checked for the above instances of academic fraud. To avoid fraud and its consequences, students are advised to consult the university website
<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Inclusiveness, Diversity, & Course Policies

Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We may be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you read, with your classmates, or the professor. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may - or may not - share your views. Derogatory comments and negative behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated. It is also understood that in many cases the ethnographies, publications, and theories that the student will encounter are a product of specific historical and social contexts and therefore may contain sexist, androcentric, and even racist views. These issues will be considered and discussed.

Lecture Outline

The following are the main lecture topics to be dealt with in this course. The readings for each week are assigned in advance. Students are required to keep up with all the readings.

Readings Legend: (R = RECOMMENDED)

#	Date	Lecture Title	Readings
1	Jan 5	Introduction: Course Aims	No reading
2	Jan 12	Science, Anthropology, Sociology	Sayag 2019. Little 2014 pages 10 - 14, (PDF Files).
3	Jan 19	The Development of Human technologies	Ambrose (PDF)
4	Jan 26	Science & Technology: A Brief History	Chorofas (2015) Ch. 1. R = Marx (PDFs)
5	Feb 2	Science and Technology Studies	Sismondo (2010) (PDF Ch. 1 & 2)
	Feb 9	Mid Term Exam	Review Reading
	Feb 16	Winter Break: No Classes	Review Reading
6	Feb 23	SCOT and ANT: The Social Construction of Technology & Actor Network Theory & Ethnography	Bijker (2015). Muniesa (PDF File).
7	Mar 2	Applied Technology: Archaeology, & ANT-STS. Take-Home Assignment Issued.	Fanthome (2021) (WWW)
8	Mar 9	Feminism, Gender, Technology & the Domus	Wajcman (1991 A), R = Cockburn (1997)
9	Mar 16	Digital Sociality. Take-Home Assignment Due.	Levan and Mamlock (2021) (PDF File)
10	Mar 23	ANT, Technology & Surveillance	Fonio 2007
11	Mar 30	Techno- Determinism & Green Technologies.	Furlong 2010
11	Apr 6	Conclusion. Essay Due.	Reading Review

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Additional Information

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course		DEF = Deferred

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>). For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC: <https://carleton.ca/PMC/>) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608** or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your ***Letter of Accommodation*** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for February/March examinations is **February 1, 2026**, and **March 15, 2026**, for April examinations.

For Religious Obligations:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Pregnancy:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (e.g. ChatGPT)

Unless explicitly permitted, either generally or for a specific assignment, any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Note: Students can also access resources related to citing Generative AI on the MacOdrum Library website.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

What are the Procedures?

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level, then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Statement on Student Mental Health:

“As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult [https://wellness.carleton.ca/”](https://wellness.carleton.ca/)

Emergency Resources (on and off campus)

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

Important Information:

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton’s Privacy Office seeks to encourage

the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.

- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your [MyCarletonOne account](#) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](#).
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://students.carleton.ca/>.

WINTER TERM 2026 – Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Activity
WINTER TERM 2026	
December 29, 2025	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full winter and early winter term courses.
January 5, 2026	University reopens. Winter term begins. Full winter and early winter classes begin.
January 9, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early winter courses.
January 16, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full winter and late winter courses. Last day to withdraw from early winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
	Graduate students who have not electronically submitted their final thesis copy to Graduate Studies will not be eligible

Date	Activity
	to graduate in winter 2026 and must register for the winter 2026 term.
January 23-25, January 30- February 1, 2026	Full fall and late fall term deferred final examinations will be held.
January 31, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full winter courses and the winter portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
February 1, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from early winter courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Feb/Mar final examinations from the Paul Merton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
February 6, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early winter undergraduate courses, before the official Feb/Mar final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
February 13, 2026	Last day of early winter classes.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early winter courses, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
	Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for early winter courses.
	April examination schedule available online.

Date	Activity
February 16, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late winter courses.
February 16-20, 2026	Winter break, no classes.
February 21-22, February 28- March 1, 2026	Final examinations in early winter undergraduate courses will be held.
February 23, 2026	Late winter classes begin.
February 27, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in late winter courses.
March 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the fall/winter session from applicants whose documents originate outside Canada or the United States.
	Last day for receipt of applications to Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Industrial Design, Bachelor of Information Technology (Interactive Multimedia and Design), Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Social Work degree programs for the fall/winter session.
	Last day for receipt of applications for admission from candidates who wish to be guaranteed consideration for financial assistance (including Carleton fellowships, scholarships and teaching assistantships) administered by Carleton University. Candidates whose applications are received after the March 1 deadline may be considered for the award of a fellowship, scholarship or teaching assistantship (Graduate students only).

Date	Activity
March 6, 2026	Last day to withdraw from late winter term courses with a full fee adjustment.
March 13-15, 2026	Early winter undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.
March 15, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for April full winter, late winter, and fall/winter final examinations from the Paul Merton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
March 25, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full winter term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official April final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 1, 2026	Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.
	Last day for receipt of applications from potential spring (June) graduates.
	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late winter term undergraduate courses, before the official final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 3, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.

Date	Activity
April 8, 2026	<p>Winter term ends.</p> <p>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</p>
	<p>Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes.</p>
	<p>Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.</p>
	<p>Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.</p>
April 9-10, 2026	No classes or examinations take place.
April 11-23, 2026	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
April 23, 2026	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
May 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate internal degree transfers to allow for registration for the summer session.
May 15-27, 2026	Full winter, late winter term, and fall/winter deferred final examinations will be held.
June 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate program for the fall/winter session except for applications due March 1.

Date	Activity
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June 15, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for the fall term.
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