SSC 217: Technology and Society

This course examines the economic, political, social, and environmental impacts of technological development on the modern world. Topics include the role of technology in job loss and creation, the role of fossil fuels in the advance of civilization, energy dependence, technological transfer between nations, the inventive process, the control of technology, biotechnology, and the development of weapons of mass destruction. Students develop the ability to think, read, and write critically and analytically and to understand how technological change is connected to human behavior and how power is wielded within society. Prerequisite: A passing score on the College's writing and reading placement tests or, C or better or concurrent enrollment in ENG 091 or ENG 092. Three lecture hours per week. Gen. Ed. Competencies Met: Ethical Dimensions and Global and Historic Awareness.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Define what technology is and explain the numerous ways in which it fosters economic, political and cultural exchange in society.
2. Recognize that the development of technology is subject to the interplay of social, economic, and political forces in society.
3. Explain how technological advance has historically been a leading cause of environmental harm worldwide.

4. Examine critically the potential of selected technologies to promote a more humane and equitable world.
Credits: 3
Program: Social Science