

ENGRG/ECE/HIST 2500, STS 2501

Technology in Society (Fall 2009)

MWF 10:10-11:00
219 Phillips Hall

Professor Ronald Kline
394 Rhodes Hall
rrk1@cornell.edu.

Office Hours: M: 1:30-3:00 Rock 334
W: 2:00-3:30 RH 394

Required Texts

Robert Friedel, A Culture of Improvement: Technology and the Western Millennium. MIT Press, 2007.

Friedrich Engels, The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844 (1845).

Frederick W. Taylor, The Principles of Scientific Management (1911).

Willa Cather, Alexander's Bridge (1912).

Harold Loeb, Life in a Technocracy: What It Might Be Like (1933).

Philip K. Dick, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? (1968).

Course Work (Percentage of Grade)

Four essays (20% each).

Weekly reading responses and participation in discussion section (20%).

Course Schedule

(There is a Discussion Section in 219 Phillips every Friday, unless otherwise noted.)

<u>Friday</u>	Aug. 28	Introduction
		<u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chap. 1.

<u>Week 1</u>	Aug. 31-Sep. 4	Movement of Technology from China to Europe; Engineering in the Renaissance <u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chaps. 5-8.
<u>Week 2</u>	Sep. 7-11	What Was the "Industrial Revolution" <u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chap. 9; Engels, "Introduction," chaps. 1-4.
<u>Week 3</u>	Sep. 14-18	Textile Industry; Coal, Iron, & Steam <u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chaps. 11-12; Engels, chaps. 6-7, 9.
<u>Week 4</u>	Sep. 21-25	Communication and Transportation; Criticizing the Industrial Revolution <u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chap. 10; Engels, chaps. 5, 8, 11.
Essay 1	Handout (discuss post on blackboard) 9/16, due 9/30	
<u>Week 5</u>	Sep. 28-Oct. 2	Geographical Expansion of British Industrialization <u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chaps. 13-14.
<u>Week 6</u>	Oct. 5-9	Technology and Colonialism <u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chaps. 15-17.
Oct. 10-13	Fall Break	
<u>Week 7</u>	Oct. 14-16	American Engineering in the 19th Century <u>Reading:</u> Cather, all.
Essay 2	Handout (discuss post on blackboard) 10/14, due 10/26	

<u>Week 8</u>	Oct. 19-23	Urbanization; Machine Age Inventors
		<u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chaps. 18-21, Taylor, all.
<u>Week 9</u>	Oct. 26-30	The Rise of Mass Consumption
		<u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chaps. 22-23, Loeb, chaps. 1-2.
<u>Week 10</u>	Nov. 2-6	Government and Technology in the Great Depression.
		<u>Reading:</u> Loeb, rest of book.
Essay 3	Handout 11/6, due, 11/20.	
<u>Week 11</u>	Nov. 9-13	Industrial Research; Technology in World War II
		<u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chap. 24; Dick, chaps. 1-6.
<u>Week 12</u>	Nov. 16-20	Postwar Consumerism
		<u>Reading:</u> Dick, chaps. 7-13.
<u>Monday</u>	Nov. 23	Counter-Narratives: Environmentalism
		<u>Reading:</u> Dick, chaps. 14-16.
Nov. 25-29	Thanksgiving Recess	
<u>Week 13</u>	Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Information Technology and Globalization
		<u>Reading:</u> Friedel, chaps. 25-26; Dick, chaps. 17-22.

Essay 4 Handout 12/4, due on the date of the final exam.