Thurston 203
MWF, 10:10-11:00

Professor Ronald Kline
Rhodes Hall 394
rrk1@cornell.edu
Office Hours: W, 1:30-3:30, or by appointment

Required Texts


Course Work (Grading)

Weekly reading responses and participation in discussion (25%)

Three essays, based on readings and lectures (25% each).

Course Schedule

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

**Week 1** Jan. 25-29

Introduction; Pre-electrical Communication Systems & Media

*Reading:* Starr, Introduction, chaps. 3-4.
Week 2  Feb. 1-5  Wiring the World in the 19th Century: The Telegraph  
Reading: Starr, chap. 5 and pp. 212-215.

Week 3  Feb. 8-12  Creating the Telephone and AT&T  
Reading: Starr, pp. 191-212.

Week 4  Feb. 15-19  From Wireless to Radio Broadcasting  

Week 5  Feb. 22-26  Listening to the Radio  
Reading: Douglas, introduction, chaps. 1-6.

Week 6  Mar. 1-5  Mechanical v. Electronic Television; Creating a Television Culture  
Reading: Tichi, chaps. 1-3, 5, 6, 8.

Week 7  Mar. 8-12  Reinventing Radio after World War II  
Reading: Douglas, chaps. 7-10.

Week 8  Mar. 15-19  Computers and Electronics in World War II  
Reading: Campbell-Kelly and Aspray, chaps. 1-3.

Mar. 22-26  Spring Break
Week 9  Mar. 29-Apr. 3  Inventing Electronic Computers

Reading: Campbell-Kelly and Aspray, chaps. 4-5, 7.

Week 10  Apr. 5-9  Early Software Industry; Rise of IBM

Reading: Campbell-Kelly and Aspray, chaps. 6, 8

Week 11  Apr. 12-16  Social Meanings of Computers; Microelectronics and Silicon Valley

Reading: Turner, chaps. 1-2.

Week 12  Apr. 19-23  From Minis to Laptops

Reading: Campbell-Kelly and Aspray, chaps. 9-11.

Week 13  Apr. 26-30  New Forms of Communications; Theories of an Information Society

Reading: Turner, chaps. 4-6.

Week 14  May 3-7  (Re)Inventing the Internet

Reading: Campbell-Kelly and Aspray, chap. 12; Turner, chaps. 7-8.