

Instructor:

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 Wednesday, 3:30-5:30 in SS250
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Other office hours are available by appointment via email

Text: Bruce Schneier, *Data and Goliath: The Hidden Battles to Collect Your Data and Control Your World* (W. W. Norton, 2015)
ISBN-13: 978-0393244816

Class Description:

The explosive growth of information technologies in general, and the Internet in particular, has irreversibly changed the way we work and play. This course prepares students to be knowledgeable citizens of cyberspace. It reviews our social institutions and how they are being impacted by information technology as well as the ways in which technology has been shaped by our social institutions.

Disclaimer: This course assumes a basic knowledge of word processing, email, and the use of the Internet for research. The course is NOT designed to teach the above skills, nor HTML programming or web-page authoring.

Course Objectives:

- To facilitate student's understanding of the social impacts of information and communication technologies (particularly computers) on society as a whole, as well as the forces in society shaping the development of those technologies.

- To provide both business-oriented and sociological frame works for understanding the social meanings and economic importance of information technologies in their own lives, including the workplace, the home, social groups, and in relation to society as a whole.

- To enable students to critically reflect on the role of information technologies and globalization in their own lives in ways which are empowering and which enables them to explore the possibilities and limitations of information technologies and globalization.

- To provide students with a sense of the career possibilities and future directions in the development of information technologies.

Campus Closure: In the event of an extended campus closure, please look at your Weber State email for instructions on how we will continue the class via email and the online course system.

Grading Policies: Grades will be determined on the following basis:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 20% |
| Assignments (3) | 30% |
| Quizzes | 50% |

Grades: A: 90 - 100% B: 80 - 89% C: 70 - 79% D: 60 - 69% E: 0 - 59%
(Grades at the high or low ends of these ranges will earn plus and minus grades.)

Quizzes: There will a quiz every day at the beginning of class. Each quiz will be based on the readings that you were given for that day, though a couple of questions may refer to content covered on the previous class day.

Students with Disabilities: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Cheating Policy: Cheating and deceit are not accepted at Weber State University. *Cheating on an quiz or assignment, or turning in someone else's work as your own, will result in an E for the class.* You may work together on your assignments and papers, but you must turn in your own work. If you quote from a book, article, or web site, you must properly quote and cite your work. **Avoid even the appearance of cheating or plagiarism.**

Assignment Policy: Assignments are due the day shown in the schedule. You will turn them via the WSU Online e-mail. Late assignments are docked ten percent each week that they are overdue.

Cell Phones, Texting, and Laptops: Put your cell phones on vibrate. Try to avoid leaving class to take a call, but an occasional emergency is understandable. There will be NO texting in this class. Laptops or other personal digital tools may be used to take notes or look up material relevant to class discussions. No other uses of laptops will be tolerated.

IS&T 1100 Assignments:

All assignments are to be three pages long, double-spaced, printed out from a computer or emailed to me. I expect good English grammar and spelling and will dock more than one mistake in either. Make your essay logical and interesting to read. Use the campus Writing Center to help you with your writing.

1. IT Job

Conduct research on a job connected with computers or networks, including a personal interview with someone who does that job. Describe the job in your paper.

2. Education Essay

Write a personal essay on how computers have been used in your education in some personally relevant way.

3. Film Review

Watch a computer-related film, such as *Wargames*, *the Net*, and so on. You may not watch any of the *Matrix* movies for this assignment. Do not use the movie *Antitrust* or any other movie that we watch in class. Describe how computers and networks are used in the film; is the use of computers realistic, probable, or ridiculous; and what social or cultural issues are raised by the film?

Schedule:

| Date (Thurs) | Readings and Class Activities |
|--------------|--|
| January 14 | Introduction to the class |
| January 21 | Read Schneier, Introduction and Chapter 1 |
| January 28 | Read Schneier, Chapters 2-3 |
| February 4 | Read Schneier, Chapter 4 |
| February 11 | No class (LTUE) |
| February 18 | Read Schneier, Chapters 5-6 Assignment 1 due |
| February 25 | Read Schneier, Chapters 7-8 |
| March 3 | Read Schneier, Chapters 9-10 |
| March 10 | Spring Break |
| March 17 | Read Schneier, Chapter 11 http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/11/if-youre-not-paranoid-youre-crazy/407833/ |
| March 24 | No class (FanX) |
| March 31 | Read Schneier, Chapters 12-13 Assignment 2 due |
| April 7 | Read Schneier, Chapters 14-15 |
| April 14 | Read Schneier, Chapter 16 |
| April 21 | Read "A Logic Named Joe" on the web, available at http://www.baen.com/chapters/W200506/0743499107_2.htm Assignment 3 due |
| April 28 | No class; No final exam |