

Instructor: Dr. Eric Swedin
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Text: Thomas L. Friedman, *The World is Flat 3.0: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* (Further Updated and Expanded, 2007). ISBN-13: 978-0312425074

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 in order for instructions on how we will continue the class via email and the Blackboard online course system.

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

Written essays (7)	40%
Quizzes (7)	40%
Discussion postings (8)	10%
In-class discussions (8)	10%

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 be a quiz every day at the beginning of class. Each quiz will be based on the readings that you were given for that day, or will be given on the content of the previous class's presentations. You may miss ONE quiz; if you take the extra quiz, it will count as extra credit.

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 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, 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.

Discussion Groups: There will be online discussion groups available. Each student must post at least once a week to the discussion groups. The quality of the posting is not graded, just the mere fact that the posting took place.

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.

Schedule:

Dates	Tuesday (in class)	Online (due on Saturday at Noon)
January 5	Introduction	Online discussion (everyone must login to the WSU Online system and introduce themselves)
January 12	Quiz and discussion on <i>The World Is Flat</i> (pages ix-77)	Essay and online discussion of <i>The World Is Flat</i> (pages 77-136)
January 19	Quiz and discussion on <i>The World Is Flat</i> (pages 137-199)	Essay and online discussion of <i>The World Is Flat</i> (pages 200-259)
January 26	Quiz and discussion on <i>The World Is Flat</i> (Chapters 5-9)	Essay and online discussion of your interview of a person in an information technology job
February 2	Watch film <i>Antitrust</i> in class, with quiz afterwards	Essay and online discussion of <i>The World Is Flat</i> (Chapters 10-13)
February 9	Quiz and discussion on <i>The World Is Flat</i> (Chapters 14-17)	Essay and online discussion of how computers have personally affected your education
February 16	Readings and quiz on the Portrayal of Computers in Science Fiction	Essay and online discussion of a film involving computers that you choose to watch
February 23	Readings and quiz on the Future	Essay and online discussion on what you have learned

Readings Links:

For February 16, on the Portrayal of Computers in Science Fiction, read the following short story, "A Logic Named Joe," located at:

http://www.baen.com/chapters/W200506/0743499107__2.htm

For February 23, on the Future, read the following article, "Why the future doesn't need us," published in Wired magazine in April 2000, and located at:

http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy_pr.html