

IST SS1100

**The Wired Society** (online version)

Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. Eric Swedin  
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Office Hours: Office hours are available by appointment. (I will normally respond to email within 48 hours.)

**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.

**Grading Policies:**

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Reading Essays (13)	90%
Discussion Postings (13)	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.)

**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 on the Ogden campus. 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 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.

**Modules:**

Module 1: The World Is Flat (pages ix-77) Reading essay due at noon on January 15.
Module 2: The World Is Flat (pages 77-136) Reading essay due at noon on January 22.
Module 3: The World Is Flat (pages 137-199) Reading essay due at noon on January 29.
Module 4: IT Job Interview Assignment essay due at noon on February 5.
Module 5: The World Is Flat (pages 200-259) Reading essay due at noon on February 12.
Module 6: The World Is Flat (Chapters 5-9) Reading essay due at noon on February 19.
Module 7: The World Is Flat (Chapters 10-13) Reading essay due at noon on February 26.
Module 8: Personal Computer Education Essay Assignment essay due at noon on March 5.
The week of March 12-16 is Spring Break.
Module 9: The World Is Flat (Chapters 14-17) Reading essay due at noon on March 19.
Module 10: The Portrayal of Computers in Science Fiction Reading essay due at noon on March 26.
Module 11: Film Review Essay Assignment essay due at noon on April 2.
Module 12: The Future Reading essay due at noon on April 9.
Module 13: What Have You Learned Essay Final essay due at noon on April 16.