

**Sci-Tech World: A Vision of Humanity Through the Lens of
Science and Technology, Past, Present, and Future**

Instructors: Dr. Eric Swedin, Dr. David Ferro, Dr. Luke Fernandez
Class Time Tuesday and Thursday at noon
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Office Hours: Office hours are available by appointment.

Texts: Bill Bryson, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (2004), ISBN:
9780767908184
Nicholas Carr, *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*
(2011), ISBN 9780393339758
Numerous handouts

Class Description and Objectives: This course will examine current and historical discussions of our scientifically and technologically constructed world. We will look at our world through fiction, fact, history, politics, art, psychology, and more. Class participation is expected.

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

Quizzes	60%
Term Paper	30%
Class Participation	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 a short quiz every day at the beginning of class. Each quiz will be based on the readings (or other assignments) that you were given for that day, or will be given on the content of the previous class's presentations. There may also be a couple of questions from the quiz content of the previous class.

Term Paper: A ten page paper on any topic covered in the course is required. You may turn in an early draft for the instructors to critique and we will return the critiqued draft two weeks later. The final draft is due on the final day of class. You must use at least six sources, only half of which may come from the Internet, and you must cite all quotations. The following web sites are useful:

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Style.html>

Cheating Policy: Cheating and deceit are not accepted at Weber State University. Cheating on a 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.

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.

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.

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 Canvas online course system.

Schedule:

Week (Tue)	Tuesday	Thursday
January 13	[Ferro, Swedin, Fernandez] Introduction to class (no quiz) <i>Introduction to Science and Technology Studies</i>	[Swedin] Bryson, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2 & 3 <i>What is science and what is the history of science</i>
January 20	[Ferro] Handout: Ferro & Swedin text, Introduction and chapter 1, " <i>Technology's Other Storytellers</i> "	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 4 & 5
January 27	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 6 & 7	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 8 & 9
February 3	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 10 & 11 & 12	[Fernandez] Handout: Robert Pool and David Noble How Technology Shapes Society
February 10	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 13 & 14 & 15	[Fernandez] Do Artifacts Have Politics? <i>Langdon Winner</i> Swedin gone
February 17	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 16 & 17	[Ferro] Internet: Murray Leinster, " <i>A Logic Named Joe</i> " < http://www.baen.com/chapters/W200506/0743499107__2.htm > Handout, Tom Godwin, " <i>The Cold Equations</i> " Handout, Poul Anderson, " <i>Call Me Joe</i> "
February 24	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 18 & 19	[Fernandez] Technology and the Tragic View
March 3	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 20 & 21	[Ferro] Handout: James Trevelyan, The Making of An Expert Engineer: Chapter 5, What Engineers Know
March 10	Spring Break	Spring Break

March 17	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 22 & 23	[Fernandez] Is the internet making me stupid?
March 24	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 24 & 25 & 26	[Fernandez] Is the internet making me stupid? (continued)
March 31	[Ferro] Handout: Daniel Keyes, <i>"Flowers for Algernon"</i> Handout: Edmond Hamilton, <i>"Devolution"</i> Handout: Harlan Ellison, <i>"Repent, Harlequin! Said the Ticktockman"</i>	[Fernandez] Is the internet making me stupid? (continued)
April 7	[Swedin] Bryson, Chapters 27-30	[Fernandez] HER
April 14	[Ferro] Media day (no quiz, but credit for attendance will be given)	[Ferro] Media day (no quiz, but credit for attendance will be given)
April 21	[Fernandez] Follow-up on distraction, multi-tasking theme	[Fernandez] Summary and reflection. What are the course take-aways?
April 28	NO Final Exam	