DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: PH 2003 PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE INFORMATION ERA

(Previously PH 2003 Internet and Philosophy)

UK LEVEL 4
UK CREDITS: 15
US CREDITS: 3/0/3

(Updated Fall 2022)

PREREQUISITES:	None
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	An introduction to philosophical thinking about technology. Issues reviewed include, but are not limited to, minds, machines, and artificial intelligence; contemporary ethical problems in technology; virtual reality; and the online experience.
RATIONALE:	This course aims to introduce students to critical and philosophical thinking about technology and should strengthen and expand their understanding of its uses and impact. As technology evolves and continues to affect every facet of human life, philosophical thinking on its nature will allow students to reflect on different dimensions of its impact, especially regarding metaphysical, epistemological, ethical, and political questions. The course gives special emphasis on information technology given its prominence in contemporary life.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to: 1. Demonstrate knowledge of key philosophical ideas and arguments on the nature of technology. 2. Analyze arguments relevant to virtual reality, cyberspace and information technology. 3. Assess the impact of new technologies from a philosophical perspective.
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the learning and teaching strategy of the college, the following tools are used: - Class lectures, interactive learning (class discussions of basic philosophical themes and contemporary philosophical positions related to course contents). - Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can ask questions, discuss their research paper, and/or go over lecture material. - Use of a Blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources. - Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use of library facilities for assignments, their research paper, further reading and preparation for the final exam.

ASSESSMENT:

Summative:

First Assessment: Essay (1,800 – 2,000 words)	**40%**
Final Assessment: Final examination (essay-type questions)	**60%**

Formative:

Home assignment- Essay-type questions	**0%**

The formative aims to prepare students for the examination.

First Assessment tests Learning Outcome 2

Final Assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1,3

The final grade for this module will not be determined through grade averaging. Students are required to resit any failed assessments

INDICATIVE READING:

REQUIRED READING:

Dusek, Val. Philosophy of Technology: An Introduction. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Baase S., A Gift of Fire: Social, legal, and ethical issues for computers and the Internet, Prentice-Hall, (4th edition) 2013.

Bartneck C., *et al.* An Introduction to Ethics in Robotics and AI. Springer, 2021

Dreyfus, H., On the Internet (Thinking in Action). New York: Routledge, 2009 (2nd Edition)

Hanson, M., Lenoir, T., New Philosophy for New Media. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2006.

Micah Hester, D., Ford, P., Computers and Ethics in Cyberspace. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2000.

Olsen, J.K.B., Pedersen, S.A., Hendricks, V.F. A Companion to the Philosophy of Technology. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009

Pitt, J.C. and Shew A., (eds) Spaces for the Future A Companion to Philosophy of Technology. Routledge, 2018.

Scharff, Robert C. and Val Dusek (eds), 2014, Philosophy of Technology: The Technological Condition, Oxford: Blackwell, 2014 (2nd edition).

INDICATIVE MATERIAL: *(e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)*	**REQUIRED MATERIAL:** **RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:**
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Writing skills using academic English
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Microsoft Word.
WWW RESOURCES:	http://noesis.evansville.edu/ http://plato.stanford.edu/ http://www.iep.utm.edu
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	1. Science and Technology: philosophical explorations 2. What is technology? Defining or Characterizing Technology. 3. Technocracy. 4. Rationality, Technological Rationality, and Reason. 5. Phenomenology, Hermeneutics and Technology. 6. Technological Determinism. 7. Autonomous Technology. 8. Human Nature: Tool Making or Language? 9. Women, Feminism and Technology. 10. Non-Western Technology and Local Knowledge. 11. Anti-Technology: Romanticism, Luddism and the Ecology Movement. 12. Social Constructionism and Actor Network Theory. 13. Ethical and Social Issues about technology