Course Abbreviation & Number:
X New Undergraduate Course: S T S- 120
... New Honors Course: --
... New Graduate Course: -

Effective Term: 05/2010

Catalog Title: Topics in Science, Technology, and Society

Transcript Title: Topics in STS

Fixed Credit Course: 3 (3,0)

Variable Credit Course: - (-), (-)

Method of Instruction | Course Modifier | General Education Designation
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X A-Lecture Only      |.. Pass/Fall Only |.. English Composition
... B-Lab (w/fee)     | X Graded        |.. Advanced Writing
... D-Seminar         | X Variable Title |.. Oral Communication
... E-Independent Study |.. Creative Inquiry |.. Mathematics
... F-Tutorial (w/fee) |.. Recetable      |.. Natural Science w/Lab
... G-Studio           | maximum credits: |.. Math or Science
... H-Field course    |                |.. A&H (Literature)
... I-Study Abroad    |                |.. A&H (Non-Literature)
... L-Lab (no/fee)    |                |.. Social Science
... N/B-Lecture/Lab(w/fee) |                |.. CCA
... N/L-Lecture/Lab(no fee) |                | X STS

Add cross-listing with the following child course(s):

Catalog Description: Explores ethical, policy, and social issues raised by the complex interactions among science, technology, and society. Topics will vary depending on the instructor.

Prerequisite(s): none

Projected Enrollment:
Year 1 - 19 Year 2 - 19 Year 3 - 19 Year 4 - 19

Required course for students in: n/a

Statement of need for the course: We need a course to transfer to STS courses that do not meet other requirements, and this course will serve another option for faculty interested in teaching an STS course on some current issue that interests them.

Textbook(s): for a sample course on Robots and Society:
Karel Capek, RUR (Rossum's Universal Robots)
Amy Bix, Inventing Ourselves Out of Jobs: America's Depression-Era Debate over Technological Unemployment
Marge Piercy, He, She, and It
Hans Moravec, Mind Children: The Future of Robot and Human Intelligence
a collections of articles that can be found on the Internet

Learning Objectives: Sample course on Robots and Society:
This course will explore the impact of robots on society, past, present and future. Students will gain an understanding of how ideas about robots (both in science fiction and in reality) and predictions of their impact have changed over time. After considering the past and present, we will ask: what do we want these technologies to do for us in the future?

Topical Outline: Sample Course on Robots and Society:
Jan. 12: Introduction and film (Metropolis)
Jan. 19: Early dreams of robots: RUR
Jan. 26: Predictions of Robots, Bix, first third
Feb. 2: Technological unemployment, Bix, middle
Feb. 9: Inventing ourselves out of unemployment, Bix end, midterm exam
Feb. 16: The robot and the Golem, Piercy, first third, term paper topic due by email before class
Feb. 23: Robots and cyborgs in fiction, Piercy, middle
Mar. 2: The line between robot and human, Piercy final third
Mar. 9: The real history of robots, Moravec, chapters 1-3, term paper due
Mar. 16: No class, spring break
Mar. 23: What happens when robots are more intelligent than humans? Moravec chapters 4-6
Mar. 30: Fears for the future, assigned articles
Apr. 6: Class presentations
Apr. 13: Class Presentations
Apr. 20: Our visions for the future, assigned articles

Evaluation: 20% midterm exam
25% term paper
20% class presentations
10% class participation
25% final exam

Duplication (if applicable): this is somewhat similar to CHS 206 but provides such opportunities for non-honors students

Form Originator: PAMMACK, Pamela Mack Date Form Created: 3/5/2010
Form Last Updated by: SB, Barbara Rogers Date Form Last Updated: 4/9/2010
Form Number: 2978

Approval
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<td>Dr. T. Mack 4/7/10</td>
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