

Course Information

Reading component:

Instructor: Eric Roberts, Professor of Computer Science
E-mail: eroberts@cs.stanford.edu
Office: Gates 202
Phone: 723-3642
Office hours: Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 A.M.
Wednesdays, 4:30–5:30 P.M. (starting next week)

Writing component:

Instructor: Patrick Windham, Lecturer in STS
E-mail: pwindham@stanford.edu or patwindham@aol.com
Office: Building 200, Room 21
Office hours: Tuesdays, 1:15–3:00 P.M.
Thursdays, 1:15–3:15 P.M.

Overall course description

STS 200. Senior Colloquium—Analytical and theoretical texts treating the natures and interplay of science, technology, and society. Prerequisite: STS major with senior standing and four STS core courses, or consent of instructor.

Section 1. Wired Worlds: Promise and Peril in the Digital Age. Over the two decades since the creation of the World Wide Web, communication networks—along with the social networks built on top of that technology—have changed our world in profound ways. This version of the STS Senior Colloquium will focus on how modern networking technology affects our society in both positive and negative ways.

As reflected in this two-part description, STS 200 is in some ways two independent courses. The reading component—taught by Eric Roberts—is designed to explore a specific thematic area that explores “the natures and interplay of science, technology, and society.” This quarter that thematic area is the consequences—both intended and unintended—of the transformations brought about by the extraordinarily rapid progress in communications technologies over the last two decades. The writing component—taught by Patrick Windham—is designed to support and guide you through the process of writing your senior papers in STS. Each of these components is described in more detail in a separate handout.

Even though it has these two distinct components, the course will be much more effective if these components mesh smoothly. To this end, we have tried to establish a common set of policies for the two components and to present an integrated course calendar, which is presented in Handout #4. More importantly, the synergy between the two will be enhanced substantially if the topic for the senior paper fits into the theme of the digital world. In the first class, we will discuss a variety of possible topics in the hopes that most of you will be able to find interest topics in this general area.

Class meetings

This seminar will meet on Tuesdays from 3:15 to 5:30 P.M. in 240-110.

Required texts

The following books are required for this class and are available from the Stanford Bookstore and many other vendors:

1. Bauerlein, Mark. *The Dumbest Generation*. Tarcher, 2008.
2. Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., and Williams, J. M. *The Craft of Research*. 3rd edition. Chicago University Press, 2000.
3. Strunk, W. & White, E. B. *The Elements of Style*. Illustrated or 4th edition. Penguin Books, 2008.

This book is recommended and serves for balance with Bauerlein:

4. Palfrey, John and Gasser, Urs. *Born Digital*. Basic Books, 2008.

In addition to these texts, you may also want to use the following source (which is available at Green Library) as a reference:

5. Hackett, E. J., Amsterdamska, O., Lynch, M., and Wajcman, J. (Eds.). *The Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*. 3rd edition. MIT Press, 2008.

Other readings will be posted on the web site or handed out in class.

Grading

The grades for this course are divided between the reading and writing components, with each part counting for 50 percent of the final grade, as described in other handouts.

Submissions

All papers for this course should be submitted by e-mail as described in the relevant assignment handout. Your submissions should conform to the following guidelines:

- The electronic copy should be in Word or PDF format using 12-point Times New Roman font, standard margins (1.00 to 1.25 inch), double spacing, and page numbers.
- All citations should be in American Psychological Association (APA) format.

Deadlines are clearly stated in this syllabus. Late assignment, if accepted at all, will be significantly penalized.

Attendance

Because seminar discussion is an essential component of this course, regular attendance is essential. Anyone missing more than one class meeting without prearrangement will be at risk of being dropped from the course. Also keep in mind that class participation is taken into consideration in assigning the grades for both components of the course. Excessive tardiness will cause points to be deducted from your participation grade.

Academic integrity

You are encouraged to collaborate with and to help each other. However, as you know, you are not allowed to represent another person's work as your own. You cannot copy a paper or even parts of a paper, from the Web or a book, and hand it in as your own. If you copy three or more words from someone else's work, put them in quotation marks and add a citation. To avoid any possible appearance of plagiarism, read the following article from the Duke University Library website:

<http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism/index.html>