

The Political Economy of Technology Governance
Politics, Technology, State, and Society
Political Science 167
Special Topics in Political Dynamics (Area II)
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INTRODUCTION

This course on “The Political Economy of Technology Governance” introduces the place and role of technology in the complexities state, markets, and societal relations. Using the lens of political science and political theory, the course aims to explore how technology and the “technological dimension” animate the theories of modernization, dependency, and (under)development. The course is meant to encourage students to explore and examine the emergence of technologies vis-à-vis global institutions, economic and material wealth, and governance. Furthermore, with the rise of “civic tech”, the course also enjoins students to look into recent technological innovations that have been adopted by advocacy-based societal actors and forces such as social movements and civil society.

The examination of the various modes of technologies in political and cultural life, e.g. information and communication tech, industrial-based, web-based, mobile technologies, etc., has affirmed the impact of technology on society, governance, and decision-making. Technologies have shaped macro systems such as the global economy, regional trade and markets, as well as the behavior of firms, consumers and households. In the context of modernity, technology has also shaped conceptualizations of bureaucratic efficiency, cultural production, and consumption, creating new sociological groups and a multiplicity of emergent political interactions. The extant literature has pointed to new socio-political dynamics in cyberspace and the rise of networked, knowledge, and information societies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are to:

- Be familiarized with a number of conceptualizations and theoretical perspectives towards technology
- Understand the role of technologies in international and domestic politics
- Explore and compare various cases experiences as to how technology has shaped (international) political economy and vice versa

- Critically assess these theories and cases by applying them to an individual or group case study to be selected by the student(s).

Apart from the rationale and objectives of this course, students are expected to help develop the course content by expanding the reading list and by providing commentaries and annotations of additional references. The students shall have a hand in shaping the pace of the discussions, as well as the content and design of the course.

The course shall be conducted through a seminar approach. This essentially means that the course will be heavily discussion-based, where each individual student is required to play the role of lead discussant. The selection of the content to be discussed will be scheduled as advised by the faculty-in-charge. "Buzz groups" shall also be formed to manage the discussions. These activities are meant to encourage the class to come up with themes for further discussion, which will be incorporated in the course content throughout the semester.

EVALUATION & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be evaluated based on the following class requirements enumerated below. The faculty-in-charge will supply the students with guidelines for each requirement.

1. Class participation (Lead Discussion, One-pagers, Integrative and Contemplative Papers)
2. Sit-in Written Midterm Examination
3. Individual Annotated Bibliography (5 references)
4. Individual Review Essay on selected cases or references
5. Team Research Project (Preliminary Class Presentation and Online version)

Grading System

96-100 = 1.0	70-74 = 2.5
92-95 = 1.25	65-69 = 2.75
88-91 = 1.5	60-64 = 3.0
84-87 = 1.75	55-59 = 4.0
80-83 = 2.0	0-54 = 5.0
75-79 = 2.25	

THE RULES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-DILIMAN REGARDING CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, THE LACK OR IMPROPER CITATION OF REFERENCES AND SOURCES, AND ALL FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY SHALL APPLY, COVERING ALL ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART I (Download complete readings at <https://goo.gl/IAKI1Z>)

Exploring Conceptualizations “Technology” and the “Technological”

- Martin Heidegger (1977). “The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays”, New York: Garland Publishing Inc., pp. 3-35.
- Roger Williams (1971). “Politics and Technology”, London: MacMillan Education., pp. 7-23.
- L. Tondl (1974). “On the Concepts of ‘Technology’ and ‘Technological Sciences’” in Freidrich Rapp (ed). Contributions to a Philosophy of Technology, Boston: D. Reidel Publishing Company, pp. 1-18.

Theories of Political Economy and Technology

- Stephen Resnick and Richard Wolff (1987) “Marxian Epistemology” in “Knowledge and Class: A Marxian Critique of Political Economy”, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 38-108.
- _____ “Class Analysis: A Marxian Theory of the Enterprise” ” in “Knowledge and Class: A Marxian Critique of Political Economy”, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 164-226
- Ross Abbinnett (2006) “Capitalism and Technology” in “Marxism After Modernity : Politics, Technology and Social Transformation”, New York: Palgrave, pp. 63-109.
- Joseph Schumpeter (1942) “The Process of Creative Destruction” in Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy. London: Routledge, pp. 81-86.
- Shanon Reter (2000). “Half a century Later, Economist’s ‘Creative Destruction’ Theory is Apt for the Internet Age...”, New York Times.

(Midterm Examination)

Working Syllabus

PART II

Modernity, Society and Technology

Alvin Toffler (1984) "The Second Wave -- The Architecture of Civilization", "Technicians of Power", and "The Electronic Cottage" in "The Third Wave: A Classic Study of Tomorrow", New York: Bantam Books

Hans Barbers (ed.) (2005) "Inside the Politics of Technology", Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, pp. 29-60.