Instructor Information
Instructor: Rose Rao
Office Location: 316 Walker
Telephone: Office – 487-3239
E-mail: rrao@mtu.edu
Office Hours: MW 10:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment

Course Identification
Course Number: UN 1001, section 55
Course Name: Perspectives on Sustainability: Appropriate Technology
Course Location: 230 Fisher Hall
Class Times: T Th 12:30 – 1:50 pm

Course Description/Overview
We live in a world that’s engulfed in-- and held together by --various forms of technology. Yet we only know it from the perspective of the role it plays in our lives. In this course will look at technology from various perspectives. It will help us to articulate what we already know about technology and identify aspects of it that we may have never considered: What role does technology play in the lives of people in other parts of the world? How is technology perceived by them? Who controls the access to technology? What is “appropriate technology” and who gets to decide what is “appropriate”? We will study the topic from various disciplines and attempt to answer these and other questions through insights gained from readings, movies, class discussions, and journal entries.

Since this course places a special emphasis on sustainability, we will study the connections between the appropriateness of a technology and its sustainability.
**Course Learning Objectives**

By successfully completing this course, the student will have acquired the tools required to engage in college-level inquiry into a topic.

1. The reading assignments are designed to make them think critically about material they encounter in course work as well in the course of their life (via the media, etc.)

2. The writing assignments are designed to allow them to express their creativity. They will also be required to research their topic and use evidence from a variety of disciplines to substantiate the claims they make in their paper.

3. The classes will be conducted in a discussion format. Through them, the students will learn to articulate their views while showing a thoughtful consideration of others' ideas and positions

**Course Resources**

The Course Website is on Blackboard. Go to courses.mtu.edu to log on.

The Writing Center is a great resource. Set up a weekly appointment early in the term. It is a great place to have someone look over your drafts and give you valuable feedback.

**Requirements**

**Textbooks:**


POI-S Events:

You will also be required to attend three events. Missing any of these may significantly affect your grade. The dates and times of these events are:

Event #1: September 9, 7-9 pm
Event #2: September 23, 7-9 pm
POI-S Showcase: December 9, all day

Other important requirements:
Reflection 1: due September 4
Reflection 2: due December 2
Individual Conferences
Group Project: This will require you to meet with the members of your group a few times.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POI-S Showcase</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POI-S Events and Class Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POI-S Forum Assignments (5 forums)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Statements (2)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course Policies

Late Papers: A paper may be no more than one day late. (A paper due on Tuesday cannot be handed in past Wednesday of that week, a paper due Thursday cannot be handed in past Friday of that week) Keep in mind, however, that such late papers will be marked down significantly.

Class Etiquette: Cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, PDAs, laptops, or any other electronic devises are not to be used in the classroom.

Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

This is a course where you get to shape and express your unique perspective on a lot of issues. Please make sure that the views you express are indeed your own. There must be no collaboration unless it is specified as a group project. If I find that you have borrowed/ shared/ taken someone else’s work, I have no choice but to report you to the university office of academic integrity.
University Policies

Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance the University’s policies.

If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:

Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310

Academic Integrity:
http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

Affirmative Action:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aap/

Disability Services:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

Equal Opportunity Statement:
### Grading Scheme

#### Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>88% - 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% - 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% - 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 75%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>65% - 69%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student's control. A grade of incomplete may be given only when approved in writing by the DEAN.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up within the next semester in residence or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.</td>
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Class Schedule:

Week 1  September 2 & 4:
- Wednesday: In Class: What is AT? What is Sustainability?
  Assignment: Reflection #1 due Thursday.
- Thursday: In Class: Discussion
  Assignment: Frog Trade Case Study -- Group Paper due on next Thursday

Week 2  September 9 & 11:
- In class: No Class. POS Evening Event
  Assignment: Frog Trade Case Study -- Group Paper due on Thursday
- Thursday: In class: Discussion of Frog Trade case study.
  Assignment: Read 3 Cups of Tea

Week 3  September 16 & 18:
- In class: Discuss 3 Cups of Tea.
  Assignment: Read the assigned chapter.
- Thursday: In class: 3 cups discussion.
  Assignment: Read App. Tech (pp. 2-13). Reflection due Tuesday.
  Written Proposal of project topic due on Sept. 25th.

Week 4: September 23 & 25
- In Class: Discuss Reflections.
  Assignment: Read App. Tech. (pp. 260-278). Reflection due Thursday.
  Written Proposal of POS Project Topic due Thursday
- Thursday: In Class: Discuss Ethics Cases.
  Assignment: Read AT readings. Bring a copy of the readings to class.
  Post Response to e-forum on TED speaker beginning Monday.
Week 5  September 30 & October 2  TED Forum #1: How We Learn

Tuesday: In Class: Discuss AT readings.
Assignment: Essay on AC vs LDC based on AT readings

Wednesday: Library Visit, POS Topic Research
Assignment: Submit preliminary research of POS topic on Tuesday
Post Response to e-forum on TED speaker beginning Monday.

Week 6  October 7 & 9  TED Forum #2: Community Sustainability

Tuesday: In Class: Discuss RFID Case and commentaries
Assignment: RFID Case analysis due Thursday

Wednesday: In Class: Discuss POS Project requirements + essay on process.
Assignment: POS paper first draft due Tuesday. Also include essay on process

Week 7  October 14 & 16

Tuesday: In Class: Instructions for self evals, +course goals

Wednesday: In Class: Discuss Freakenomics reading
Assignment: Freakenomics Chs 1-3 (pp. 15-105) for Tuesday Oct 21st.
Post Response to e-forum on TED speaker beginning Monday.
Self-evaluation essay due at conference

Sign up for Individual conferences for Week #8

(Finish reading Freakenomics this week)
Week 8  October 21 & 23  TED Forum #3: National Equity

**Thursday:** In Class: No class. Attend Individual conference.

Assignment: Bring to Conference: **Self Evaluation essay**

Read Freakenomics chs. 3-6 and epilogue for Thursday Oct 23rd.

**Thursday:** In Class: No Class. Attend Individual conference.

Assignment: Bring to Conference: **Self Evaluation essay**

Read Yunus Introduction, + chs. 1 - 4 for Tuesday

Week 9  October 28 and 30

**Tuesday:** In Class: Discuss Yunus reading.

Assignment: Read Yunus chs. 5 and 6 for Thursday

**Thursday:** In Class: Discuss Yunus reading.

Assignment: Post Response to e-forum on TED speaker beginning Monday.

Read Yunus chs. 7 and 8 for Tuesday

Week 10  November 4 & 6  TED Forum #4: The Future of Peace

**Tuesday:** In Class: Discuss Yunus reading.

Assignment: Read Yunus chs. 9 and 10 for Thursday

**Thursday:** In Class: Discuss Yunus reading.

Assignment: Read Yunus chs 11 and 12 for Tuesday

Week 11  November 11 & 13

**Tuesday:** In Class: Discuss Yunus reading.

Assignment: Read Yunus chs. 13 and 14 for Thursday

**Thursday:** In Class: Discuss Yunus reading.

Assignment: Post Response to e-forum on TED speaker beginning Monday.
Week 12  November 18 & 20  TED Forum #5: How Ideas Spread

In Class:

Assignment:

Assignment: In Class: Discuss Reflection #2

Assignment: Reflection #2 is due Tuesday

Thanksgiving Break November 21 to December 1

Week 13  December 2 & 4

In Class: PQS Presentations

Assignment:

In Class: PQS Presentations

Assignment:

Week 14  December 9 & 11

In Class: PQS Showcase all day.

Assignment:

In Class:

Assignment: