PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY
HU 3701/Spring 2010

Professor Jennifer Daryl Slack
304 Walker Hall
Office Hours: 12:30-2 Tu & Th
Other times by appointment  jdslack@mtu.edu

COURSE GOALS:
✓ To heighten your awareness of the rich relationship between technology and culture
✓ To develop your ability to assess beliefs, practices, policies involving technology from a philosophically and experientially sophisticated position

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
❖ Readings: complete by date on syllabus
❖ 10 Homework Assignments (2 page papers mostly)
❖ 4 tests
❖ APPT-itude: attendance, preparation, participation, and thoughtfulness

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Additional readings will be made available

GRADING:
Grade Breakdown:
Homeworks - 50 points each = 500 points
Tests - 100 points each = 400 points
APPT-itude = 100 points

A = 920-1000  A/B =880-919  D = 600-679
B = 820-879  B/C=780-819  F= below 600
C= 720-779  C/D=680-719

Note on APPT-itude:
I place a high value on your class participation, your contribution to creating a positive classroom environment. To assess APPT-itude, I will evaluate each of you individually, assessing
1. Your attendance (Attendance should be regular. Missing more than 3 classes begins to lower your points)
2. Your preparation (Did you complete readings and assignments on time?)
3. Your participation (Are you present? Sleeping, texting, surfing, and daydreaming are as good as not being there)
4. Your thoughtfulness (Are you thoughtful, productive, serious, and engaged?)
ADDITIONAL GRADING AND COURSE POLICIES:
1. You must complete all assignments to pass the class.
2. Each day a homework is late, the grade is dropped one full grade. Grade reduction begins with not turning in an assignment in class.
3. There will be no make-up for tests. If you cannot make a test, you must notify me in advance to resolve.
4. You must write well. Your homework and test grades will be affected by your writing. If you have any difficulty with writing or seek (as you should) to improve your writing, please work with the Writing Center.
5. You are allowed to use laptops (or smartphones) in class. However, there is to be no texting, no checking email, no unauthorized internet browsing. If I see that you are engaging in these activities without permission, the day will count as an absence. Please be respectful of this as we find our way around responsibly in the new media environment.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance with 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 address this as soon as possible. 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 906-487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 906-487-3310.

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

Academic integrity. Any instance of academic dishonesty (for example, plagiarism) will result in your being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Carefully document any sources you use in your work. Please refer to the MTU Academic Integrity Policy.

Affirmative Action Policies:
www.admin.mtu.edu/aaao/

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

Equal Opportunity Statement:
www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch3/ch3p7.htm
CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to alteration as needed)

Learning Through the Lens of the Future

Jan 12 (T)  Introduction: Humans, Culture, Technology
Jan 14 (TH) Thinking About Cyborgs  Clark, Intro & Ch 1
Jan 19 (T)  Opacity, Transparency, Tech vs Human Centered  Clark, Ch 2  H1 due
Jan 21 (TH) Plasticity, Hybridity, Looping, Scaffolding, Mangroves  Clark, Ch 3
Jan 26 (T)  Space, Location, Embodiment, Flow - The Map!  Clark, Ch 4  H2 due
Jan 28 (TH) Self? Tools all the way down? - Soft selves  Clark, Ch 5  H3 due

Feb 2 (T)  Swarming  Clark, Ch 6  H4 due
Feb 4 (Th)  NO CLASS WINTER CARNIVAL  Read Vinge
Feb 9 (T)  Test # 1
Feb 11 (Th) Learning from an Imagined Future - Vinge  Vinge, 1-207  H5 due
Feb 16 (T)  Vinge
Feb 18 (Th)  Vinge, 208-381
Feb 23 (T)  Test #2

Building your Critical Understanding

Feb 25 (Th)  Technology and Culture; Progress,  Slack-Wise Intro & 1
Mar 2 (T)  Convenience  Slack-Wise Ch 2  H6 due
Mar 4 (Th)  Determinism and Control  Slack-Wise Ch 3 & 4

SPRING BREAK - MARCH 9 & 11

Mar 16 (T)  Critical Responses  Slack-Wise Ch 5, 6, 7  H7 due
Mar 18 (Th)  Test #3
Mar 23 (T)  Matters of Definition, Causality  Slack-Wise Ch 8, 9  H8 due
Mar 25 (Th)  Agency, Articulation and Assemblage  Slack-Wise Ch 10 & 11  H9 due
Apr 1 (TH)  Space - Modes  Slack-Wise Ch 12  H10 due
Apr 6 (T)  Identity  Slack-Wise Ch 13 & 14
Apr 8 (Th)  Politics and Globalization  Slack-Wise Ch 15 & 16 & Concl
Apr 13 (T)  Review
Apr 15 (TH)  Test #4