This seminar is one of the designated “headwaters” courses of the RTC program. As such, it is meant to provide overall context to the three disciplinary strands represented in the title of the course. In addition, we will locate these strands into the context of the RTC program by focusing on topics and issues that arise within the fields, but also that are particular to this graduate program. Finally, we will not only overview these disciplinary areas, but we will delve into the depths through some close reading of chosen texts, as well close attention to the theories and practices of appropriate scholarly research methods and methodologies.

Required Assignments and Activities of the Course

Weekly Readings and Leading Discussions (15%)

As in any graduate seminar, there will be readings each week that you are expected to complete. Some of these readings will be chosen by me, but you will also do some choosing. I am including a list of the readings I have chosen for the first half of the semester below in the “Required Readings” Section.

In addition to these readings, I will ask each of you to choose one reading from Central Works or Philosophy of Technology. Beginning in the third week, one person per week will be responsible for reading and then reporting on that reading to the class. In essence, you will be responsible for leading discussion on the reading you have selected and then coordinating about 20-30 minutes of conversation and activity related to that reading. We will discuss this assignment in more detail during the first few classes.

Weekly and Periodic Writings (15%)

For the first two weeks of the semester, the entire class will be required to write what I will call a Summary/Inquiry response to one of the texts we have read. These should be 2-3 pages and will consist of two parts. The first part will be a summary of the article that attempts to explain the content and significance of the article to the other members of the class (and to me, of course). The second part of these responses will be to write a couple questions that inquire into some aspect(s) of the reading that you want to probe with other members of the class. I will collect these papers and provide responses to you the following week.

Beginning with Week 3, you will not have to write and hand-in one of these each week, but I do want each of you to produce 3 more of these over the semester. Further, these responses should attempt to synthesize some of the previous readings.

You can choose the weeks you want to write these for me, but I will have a sign-up sheet so that we don’t get them all clumped together. (Of course, some of you may choose to write these every week, especially if you find them helpful to you. However, you only have to hand in four over the semester).
Professional Explorations (10%)
An integral part of our curriculum is to begin preparing you for your eventual professional goals. In this class, we will do three specific things to this end:

• Explore the various job markets. We will look at articles about the job search process from The Chronicle, the MLA, and other professional publications. These will be fodder for your own exploration, but we will also discuss these communally in class.
• Explore the career path of one of our graduates. I will provide you with lists of our PhD and MS graduates over the past 20 years. You will contact one of them and interview them (over email or phone) to prepare a short oral and written report for the other members of the class.
• Explore the preparation of professional documents such as vitas and resumes. We will also spend some time on the ways that publication works in the profession.

Mid-term Exam (30%) and Final Conference-style Presentation & Paper (30%)
The productions will be of two types. First, you will have a mid-term exam modeled after a comprehensive exam. You will be able to craft your own question, similar to the way you will later in preparation for your post-coursework Comprehensive Exam. This will be a take-home exam, allowing you about a week to write 10 pages in response.

The second production will result in a mini-conference at the end of the semester. About the tenth week of the semester, you will write a one-page proposal (ala the CCCC, ATTW or CPTSC) for a conference presentation on a topic relevant to the class. I will group your proposals into several panels for presentation at the end of the semester. The proposals will be copied and distributed to the other members of the class and will serve as pre-presentation abstracts for your talks.

The conference will consist of probably three or four panels (depending upon final class enrollment). Each presenter will have about ten minutes to present a position based upon his/her proposal. After each panel has finished, there will be discussion concerning the panelists’ positions. (The conference, which we should be all rights call a jamboree, will be conducted MTU-style. That is, there will be beverages and food to accompany the activities). You will hand in a paper (15-20 pages) to me in finals week based on your presentation.

Required Texts and Materials

Central Works in Technical Communication by Johnson-Eilola and Selber.

Philosophy of Technology: The Technological Condition. Scharff and Dusek.

The Cost of Living by Arundhati Roy.

Photocopies of various articles, assignments, etc.

Weekly Readings and Activities
The readings below are identified by the two major anthologies for the class: CW for 
_Central Works_ and PT for _Philosophy of Technology_. The parentheses after the readings 
are the chapter numbers. Note that I have not listed the Introductions to each section of 
these texts, but I will expect that you have read them for the appropriate readings each 
week. At Week 10, we will assess our progress and determine readings for the rest of the 
semester.

**Week 1**  
(Jan. 11)  
Introductions  
Overview of Course  
Discuss Reading sent to course listserv

**Week 2**  
(Jan. 19)  
_CW_: Connors (1); Rutter (2); Miller (4)  
Themes: History, Rhetoric, Disciplinarity

**Week 3**  
(Jan. 26)  
_CW_: Johnson (7); Driskill (5); Johnson-Eilola (12)  
_PT_: Marx and Engels (7)  
Themes: Audience, Workplaces, Work

**Week 4**  
( Feb. 2)  
_PT_: Aristotle (2); Kline (19); Arendt (30)  
Two student's choices  
Themes: Rhetoric, Technology, Agency

**Week 5**  
( Feb. 9)  
_PT_: Tuana (11); Harding (14)  
_CW_: Durack (3); Lay (10)  
Two student's choices  
Themes: Feminist Views, Politics, Science

**Week 6**  
( Feb. 16)  
_PT_: Bacon (3); Merchant (36); Devall (40); Salleh (41)  
Two student's choices  
Themes: Nature, Environmentalism, Ecology

**Week 7**  
( Feb. 23)  
_PT_: Pinch & Bijker (21); Winner (22 & 51)  
_CW_: Katz (13)  
Two student's choices  
Themes: Determinism, Agency, Disciplinarity

**Week 10**  
(Mar. 2)  
_CW_: Charney (19); Sullivan & Porter (20); Doheny-Farina (22)  
Mid-term take home exam  
Two student's choices  
Themes: Methods, Methodologies, Rhetoric Theory

**Week 9**  
(Mar. 9)  
Spring Break  
No Class Meeting; Work on mid-term exam

**Week 10**  
Professional Explorations
(Mar. 16) Turn in exams
Discuss final project’s process
Two student’s choices

Pedagogy/Education (Selber, & Dreyfuss)
Ethics (Dale)
Power (Feenberg)
Craft (me)
Cultures (Buddhist econ, Bosley, Roy)
Luddism

MTU Policies and Academic Assistance Documents

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/aao/

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