

Spring Semester 2009**Office:** Harris Hall 533**Office Hours:** M+W 11:00-12:15, T+Th. 9:30-10:45
W 2:00-5:00, and by appointment**Email:** mjeffries@netc.edu**Telephone:** 921-1453

Overview: This course is an overview of the major themes and advances in technology that have helped shape the United States, its peoples, and its place in the world community. While the basic format of the course will involve lectures and some discussions, we will use a variety of documents, readings, photography, films, and music to explore the ways in which we understand and interpret our nation's past.

In accordance with the goals of Northeastern Technical College, this course will help students to identify, conceptualize, and evaluate:

Social and political processes and structures using quantitative and qualitative data

Key primary sources related to the history of technology and its impact on American society and political solutions

The nature and development of the intellectual concepts that structure American technology and society

The history and operation of American democratic institutions, culture, society, and involvement in world affairs with a particular focus on technology and technological advances, and

To convey knowledge and understanding of ethnicity in the United States, helping students learn about the opportunities and responsibilities they have as citizens in an increasingly multicultural and technological nation

Furthermore, in the spirit of the traditions of a liberal arts education, we will all work together on the expression of ideas in both writing assignments and classroom discussions.

As we proceed through the content of this course, I wish for students to consider the importance of change and continuity over time. I offer two quotes as guideposts for the issues we will study, and to assess how the meaning of these arguments provides perspective on historical ideas, events, and characters.

“History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days. What is the worth of all this? The only guide to a man is his conscience; the only shield to his memory is the rectitude and sincerity of his actions. It is very imprudent to walk through life without this shield, because we are so often mocked by the failure of our hopes and the upsetting of our calculations; but with this shield, however the Fates may play, we march always in the ranks of honour.”

Winston Churchill, “To the House of Commons,” 9 November 1940, in James MacGregor Burns, *Roosevelt: The Soldier of Freedom* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1970), pg. v.

“O, let America be America again – The land that never has been yet – And yet must be-the land where every man is free. The land that's mine-the poor man's land, Indian's, Negro's, ME – Who made America, Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain, Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain, Must bring back our mighty dream again.”

Langston Hughes, “Let America Be America Again,” in Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2005), pgs. 404-405.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to amendment or change at the discretion of the professor.

Book: Gary Cross and Rick Szostak, *Technology and American Society: A History*, 2nd Edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson / Prentice Hall, 2005).

Readings and Writing Assignments: Students will have reading and writing assignments for each week's meetings. Each reading and writing assignment will involve primary and secondary sources of different types.

In order to help students to develop effective writing styles, I will prepare a Writing Style Guide. Students should consider the Guide both as a set of guidelines and as a list of rules by which to adhere in writing assignments. I expect all students to adhere by these guidelines in all writing assignments; failure to adhere by the Guide will result in grading penalties.

Registration for this Course: Students are responsible for registering for this class and for verifying their class schedule on the College's Web-site. Students are responsible for observing NETC registration deadlines, to which no exceptions can be made. The deadline for registration for this course is TBD with instructor / departmental signature. The last day to drop this course without receiving a "W" grade is TBD. There are no exceptions to these dates.

Course Requirements: Grades in this course will be determined by their performance in the following areas:

1. Mid-Term Examination (25%, based on examination score)
2. Final Examination (25%, based on examination score)
3. Attendance, Quizzes, Discussion, and Participation (25%, based on the average of these scores)
4. Weekly Writing Assignments (25%, based on the average of these scores)

Also, please take the time to create a Moodle account. This is extremely important as there will be supplementary material (readings, media, assignments...etc.) placed on the internet site for the course. You may access Moodle at the following web-site: <http://netc.remote-learner.net/login/index.php> or by visiting college's web-site at: www.netc.edu and clicking the "current students" tab then clicking the "Moodle" tab on the left side of the computer screen.

All work will be graded on a scale of 0-100, with 90-100 being "A," 80-89 being "B," etc... I will provide written explanations for the grades on all written work.

The examinations will be essay in format, must be written in blue or black ink, and be written in a "Blue Book" that each student is responsible for purchasing. Failure to comply with these directions will result in a grade of "0" for the exam. I will not give study guides. Students should utilize all of the course materials, readings, quizzes, and writing assignments as their study guide.

All quizzes and in class writing assignments must be written in blue or black ink, other outside of class writing assignments must be *typed and double spaced* with the student's name, the course title and number (HSS 205), and the date of the assignment. If these rules are not followed a "0" will be given for the assignment.

I would like to have the opportunity to interact with every student, thus I request that each student come to my office hours at some point during the semester to introduce themselves to me.

Honor Code: I expect all students to abide by the Northeastern Technical College Honor Code. As a student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with the Code and with plagiarism, and by signing into this course you are agreeing to uphold the Code. I insist that all work that your present be your own original work, no exceptions will be made. Information about the Honor System at NETC may be found in the NETC Course Catalogue and Student Handbook, also found on the internet at <http://www.netc.edu/Pathways.html> as a linked, downloadable Adobe Reader .pdf file. All work that students submit for this course, including writing assignments and examinations, must contain your name.

Attendance and Assignments: Presence at all class meetings is necessary for students to participate in discussions and debates, to take quizzes, turn in assignments, and to obtain a working knowledge of material for which students will be held responsible. Attendance is mandatory and absences will count against the student's final grade. I will take attendance at the beginning of every class meeting, past classroom experiences demonstrate that poor attendance will result in low scores on assignments and examinations, ultimately lowering the student's final grade average. Therefore, *students should be present for all lectures and take thorough notes on lectures and class discussions.* I will not provide lecture notes if students are absent, so do not ask me to do so. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for every class meeting, quiz, examination, and assignment. If the student misses seven class meetings for the semester they will be dropped from the course with a grade of "F" for the entire course. The instructor reserves the right to change, update, or alter assignments, quizzes, and examinations at anytime.

I expect that you will have completed all readings prior to coming to class and that you will be prepared to discuss such readings. Work should be handed in as indicated to you. Late work will *NOT* be accepted, and there are no make-ups for missed assignments, including examinations. There are NO EXCPETIONS to this policy except in the most extreme of circumstances, with proper documentation. All missed work will result in the grade of "0."

Students who have any scheduling conflicts with any assignments should discuss conflicts with me at the earliest date possible. I will deny any and all requests to change the dates or times of assignments at the last minute.

Classroom Etiquette: In order that all students contribute to discussions and a positive classroom environment, I insist that all students demonstrate respect toward one another and toward the instructor at all times. Failure to act as a responsible and educated professional will result in removal from the class with a grade of "0."

Each week will feature specific cultural, social, and ethnic information dealing with the United States and its peoples including but not limited to music, artifacts, arts, crafts, food, health and medicine, social programs, environment, exploitation, capitalistic endeavors, portrayal, representation, politics, policies, stereotypes...etc. and their relationship to the United States, its peoples and government, during the certain time period.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: <i>January 12</i>	Questions of Technology & Pre-America and Colonization Cross and Szostak, Ch. 1
Week 2: <i>Jan. 19</i>	Pre-Industrial Society of America and Europe Cross and Szostak, Ch. 2
Week 3: <i>Jan. 26</i>	Colonial Craftsmen & Society Cross and Szostak, Ch. 3
Week 4: <i>February 2</i>	Origins of Industrialization & the Birth of the Factory Cross and Szostak, Chs. 4-5
Week 5: <i>Feb. 9</i>	Iron, Steam, and Rails Cross and Szostak, Ch. 6
Week 6: <i>Feb. 16</i>	Machines and Their Mass Production Cross and Szostak, Ch. 7
Week 7: <i>Feb. 23</i>	Machines and the Mechanical World Goldfield, Chs. 8-9
Week 8: <i>March 2</i> (MID-TERM)	Second Industrial Revolution: “The Gilded Age” Cross and Szostak, Ch. 10-11
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Week 9: <i>Mar. 9</i>	Impact of Technology on Women’s Work & Medicine Cross and Szostak, Ch. 13-14
Week 10: <i>Mar. 16</i>	Technology, Culture, and Society of the 20 th Century Cross and Szostak, Ch. 15
Week 11: <i>Mar. 23</i>	Culture, Society, and Technology of the 20 th Century Cross and Szostak, Ch. 16
Week 12: <i>Mar. 30</i>	Society, Technology, and Culture of the 20 th Century Goldfield, Ch. 17
Week 13: <i>April 13</i>	War, Society, and Technology Cross and Szostak, Chs. 12 & 18
Week 14: <i>April 20</i>	Technology after War & Making Modern Society Cross and Szostak, Ch. 19
Week 15: <i>April 27</i> (FINAL)	Complete Computer Age & Modern Society / Technology Cross and Szostak, Ch. 20-21