I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Technology today is deeply integrated into most aspects of our lives. However, technology is never gender or race neutral. Rather, social categories such as gender, race, class and sexuality are shaped by technology and in turn, shape the development of new technologies. Technology is in that sense best understood as a “co-production” of gender and technology. This course draws on a variety of fields such as anthropology, biology, engineering, feminist science and technology studies, design studies, philosophy, sociology, and literature to provide a critical perspective on gender and technology. Topics will include: feminist technology studies, the digital divide, internet, web, and digital technologies, social media, home technologies, biotechnology, reproductive technologies, surveillance, and digital entertainment technologies.

Note: This course is a blended course, meeting half the time in a classroom setting and the rest in an online setting. Each week, you are expected to be a well-prepared and engaged participant in the classroom, and an engaged and responsive participant online. Weekly details are on the syllabus.

II. COURSE READINGS

There are no texts for this course. Readings are all electronic and available as web links or files on the course Moodle site. If you are registered for the course, you should automatically have access to the course Moodle site. If not, please contact OIT.
III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This class is designed to be a blended course. Of the structured “course time” assigned each week, we will engage with the course material half the time in a face-to-face setting in class and the other half electronically through MOODLE. In the syllabus, you will see that for each week there are assigned readings, as well as class exercises and reflection pieces. For each week’s face-to-face class on Tuesday, you should have completed the readings assigned for the week, completed the exercise or reflection piece, and posted your contribution by midnight the previous Sunday. You should have responded to at least one other person’s post each week before Tuesday noon. We will discuss the readings, your posts and responses in class each week. It is therefore essential that you complete and reflect upon the reading and online assignments before coming to class, so you are prepared to contribute to the discussion. It is critical that you participate in the emerging conversation and analysis. Every class will focus on the readings assigned for that class as stated in the syllabus. The format of the class will be primarily a group discussion focused on the themes of the class readings.

ATTENDANCE: Your attendance & participation (in class and online) is required for the entire session of each class. More than 3 unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade by at least one letter grade.

- Attendance and Class Participation – in class (10%): The issues we will be discussing this semester have both academic and personal implications. In order to grapple with this material it is vital that you do the readings and assignments carefully and on time, come to class with questions, opinions, and analyses (agreements and disagreements) -- in other words to be prepared to participate in an intellectual debate. In class participation (quality not quantity!) counts for 10% of your grade.

- Online Participation on Moodle (65%): Online Participation is required each week. Each week your online engagement takes the form of either a class exercise or a reflection piece. Detailed instructions are posted on Moodle. Your post for Tuesday’s class is due the previous Sunday by midnight. Please read the other posts and respond to at least one classmate’s post by Tuesday at noon on the day of the class:
  - Online Exercises (40%): Several times during the semester, the week’s online work is through a particular class online exercise. Details of the exercise and the writing requirements are posted on Moodle. Each of these assignments is worth 10% and the top four grades will be count towards your final grade.
  - Reflection Pieces (25%): Several times during the semester, you will be asked to reflect on the readings for that week. Please do the readings and write a 2-3 page reflection piece on the readings for that week. Questions and themes are posted on Moodle. Each reflection piece entry is worth 5%. Your top five grades will count towards your final grade.
• **Final Project (20%)**: A final project, 8-10 pages (details in class and Moodle) is due on November 27. The project will require you to do analytic work focusing on themes of the course. A title and abstract are due by October 23. The paper is due in class or online by class time on November 27. On that day, you will exchange your paper with a classmate for a peer evaluation.

• **Peer Evaluation (5%)**: You will exchange your final project paper with someone else in the class on November 27 and write a 2-page critical reflection on the paper. The original paper and your evaluation of the paper are due in class on December 4. (These can also be posted online.)

• **Extra Credit**: Throughout the semester, I will post events taking place in the Five Colleges that relate to the themes of the course. You can attend an event, write a 2-page summary for a 2% extra credit. If you find a relevant event that you are interested in, please check with me. The summary must be turned in within one week of the event. You can earn up to 6% in extra credit papers for the semester.

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<th>Summary of Grading</th>
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<td>In class participation –</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online exercises (best of 4):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflections pieces (best of 5):</td>
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<td>Final Paper:</td>
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<td>Peer evaluation:</td>
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<td>Extra credit (up to 6%)</td>
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**Academic Honesty**
Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated and you are responsible for educating yourself about the University’s official policy on academic honesty. **You can access the policy in full at [http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/rights/acad_honest.htm](http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/rights/acad_honest.htm)**

**Accommodation Policy Statement**
The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS), Learning Disabilities Support Services (LDSS), or Psychological Disabilities Services (PDS), please notify me within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements: [http://www.umass.edu/disability/procedures.pdf](http://www.umass.edu/disability/procedures.pdf)
IV: SCHEDULE

PART I – GENDER AND TECHNOLOGY, AN INTRODUCTION

Week 1: September 4 – Introductions

Week 2: September 11 – The Great Reach of Technology

Readings:

Online Work: Exercise

Week 3: September 18 – Gender and Technology: Conceptual Issues

Readings:
- Race and Cyberspace: Interview with Lisa Nakamura: http://www/english.illinois.edu/people/faculty/schaffner/w4w/readings/nakamura.pdf

Online Work: Reflection Piece
PART II - TECHNOLOGY AND THE MEDIA

Week 4: September 25 – Social Media
Guest: Eve Ng, Research Associate, Five College Women’s Research Center

Readings:

Online Work: Exercise

Week 5: October 2 – Digital Nation

Readings:

Online Work: Exercise
Week 6: October 9 – Technologies of Difference
Tues, Oct 9, No Class (Monday Schedule)

Readings:
- Watch: *Diagnosing Difference OR*
- Friday, Oct 5, Intersex Symposium, Mount Holyoke College

*Online Work: Reflection Piece*

Week 7: October 16 – Gender, Technology and Fan Culture
Guest: Julie Levin Russo, Research Associate, Five College Women’s Research Center

Readings:

*Online Work: Reflection Piece*

**PART III - SEXUALITY, REPRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY**

Week 8: October 23 – Technologies of Desire
Guest Speaker: Angela Willey, WGSS, UMass

Readings:

*Online Work: Exercise*
PART IV: TECHNOLOGY AND CITIZENSHIP

Week 11: November 13 – Digital Divides
Guest Speaker: Virginia Eubanks, University of Albany

Readings:

Online Work: Reflection
Week 12: November 20 – Black Women and New Media Production.  
Guest: TreaAndrea Russworm, English, UMass

Readings:

Week 13: November 27 – Technology and Social Justice, 
Five College Feminist Media Justice Group, Mari Castaneda and colleagues.

Readings:
TBA

Final Project Due

Week 14: December 4 – Conclusion

Final Project and Evaluation Due