ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:	September 1999
REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:	September 2024
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval):	November 2029

Course outline form version: 28/10/2022

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: MACS 460	**Number of Credits:** 4 Course credit policy (105)

Course Full Title: Issues in the Information Society
Course Short Title: Issues in the Info Society

Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences	**Department:** School of Culture, Media, and Society

Calendar Description:

Explores the social, political, and cultural dimensions of information technology and what has come to be known as the "information society". Students will examine technology in relation to a variety of social issues including the changing nature of work, individual identity formation, social roles, democracy, privacy, and community.

Note: This course is offered as MACS 460 and SOC 460. Students may take only one of these for credit.

Prerequisites (or NONE):	45 university-level credits including at least 9 credits of SOC and/or MACS.
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.

Antirequisite Courses *(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)*

Former course code/number: **SCMS 460**

Cross-listed with: **SOC 460**

Equivalent course(s): **SOC 460**

(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)

Course Details

Special Topics course: **No**

(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)

Directed Study course: **No**

(See policy 207 for more information.)

Grading System: **Letter grades**

Delivery Mode: **May be offered in multiple delivery modes**

Expected frequency: **Annually**

Maximum enrolment (for information only)**: 25**

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours

Lecture/seminar	60
Total hours	**60**

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR is available for this course.

Transfer Credit *(See **bctransferguide.ca**.)*

Transfer credit already exists: **Yes**

Submit outline for (re)articulation: **No**
(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)

Scheduled Laboratory Hours

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: ☒ No ☐ Yes

Department approval	**Date of meeting:**	October 2023
Faculty Council approval	**Date of meeting:**	October 13, 2023
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	**Date of meeting:**	November 25, 2023

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe some of the key social and cultural information technologies.
2. Chart the dominant discourses which frame the development and integration of information technologies in society.
3. Critically assess the claims of "the information society".
4. Describe the relationship between information technologies and various selected spheres of human activity and identity formation.
5. Explore how Indigenous (and other marginalized) communities utilize technology to preserve and promote language, culture, and customs.
6. Evaluate the subversive and suppressive potential of information technologies.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Quizzes/tests:	20%	Assignments:	55%	Final exam:	25%
	%		%		%

Details:

In-class mid-term exam 25%, group project/presentation 30%.

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Lectures and tutorial-style discussions, collective news media analysis, as well as documentary videos and film clips.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. Open Educational Resources (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)*

	Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1.	Textbook	Miller, Vincent	Understanding Digital Culture	2020
2.	Other		Course pack containing readings from appropriate sources	
3.				
4.				
5.				

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

Course Content and Topics

1. Technology, agency, and social change: introduction to issues in the information society
2. Key elements of digital media
3. Economics of the information age
4. Media and technological convergence
5. Technology, privacy, and surveillance
6. Technology and work
7. Information politics
8. Digital identity
9. Uses of technology by Indigenous and other marginalized communities
10. Cybercrime and cyberterrorism
11. The body and information technologies