

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by School of Creative Media
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Philosophy of Technology and New Media

Course Code: SM6325

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P6

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course seeks to understand how new media technologies are embedded and constituted in our everyday practices and to examine the artistic potential of human-technology relations. It posits practices involving new media technologies into a framework of philosophy of technology and critically interrogates the promises and expectations about around new media. More specific topics include examining the ways in which technologies are (re-)shaped in their culturally situated use-contexts. Special attention is paid to the mundane but intimate human-technology relations we enter into on everyday basis and the ways in they modify our understanding of the world and our ability to operate in it. Relevant questions, to be dealt with in both scholarly and artistic fashion, include: Do technologies have purposes? Where does the human body stop and the technology begin? Do technologies make us more/less free? What is the balance of power like in a particular human-technology relation? Upon completion of the class, students should be able to apply post-phenomenological insights in their own research projects and artistic practice, and subject new media artworks to critical analysis as technologies.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	To identify the key theoretical positions and concepts concerning the nature of technologies and their role in constituting human experience of the world		✓	✓	
2.	Articulate how technologies are created in human practices and how they mediate and transform human experience of the world; identify artistic uses for existing technologies		✓	✓	✓
3.	Differentiate between and critically discuss new media artworks based on the involvement of technology		✓	✓	✓
4.	Apply post-phenomenological theory in independent research and critical writing, and artistic practice (if applicable)		✓	✓	✓
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Lectures	Lectures explaining theories, including works of Heidegger, Ihde, and Verbeek	✓				
Group discussions	Group discussions on assigned readings	✓				
Quizzes	In-class quizzes on assigned readings	✓				
Field research presentations	Field research on technologies leading to in-class student presentations followed by group discussions		✓			
Exercise	"Technological deprivation" exercise, scholarly/artistic examination the effects of living without a particular technology		✓			
Discussion and reaction paper writing	Discussions and reaction paper writing on technologies and new media artworks based on screenings and demonstrations			✓		
Independent research	Independent research on themes of the class				✓	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 40%						
Presentation on a technology based on field research		✓			15%	
Presentation/paper on the technological deprivation exercise		✓			20%	
In-class participation and discussion	✓	✓	✓		5%	
Examination: 60% (duration:3 hours, if applicable)						
					100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Presentation	This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show their co-operation to conduct a well-organized presentation with their own argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of 'discovery' lied in a student's self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, and systematic exposition with a strong sense of narrative – Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management – Critical analysis with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter – Reasonable organization, balanced structure and composition – Good verbal communication: comprehensible pronunciation, fluent expression and diction, fair time-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adequate content with comprehensive grasp of the material demonstrating basic knowledge of the subject matter – Fair organization, weak structure and composition – Fair presentation skills: acceptable pronunciation, expression and diction, fair time-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weak content, loose grasp of the general ideas with some knowledge of the subject matter – Poor organization, structure and composition – Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, poor time-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter – No organization, structure or/and composition – Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, minimal time-management

		insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize				
2. Reaction Paper	This assessment will grade on rationality, clarity and fluency of argument and comment. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lies in a student’s ability to negotiate a position that is informed, defensible, and standing on personal insight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rich content, excellent ability to interpret and integrate various resources – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition – Precision in argument, well defined and reasoned points of view grounded in insightful interpretation of existing literature – Readiness to respond to peer opinion and other views initiated in class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Reasonable organization with balanced structure and composition – Clear elaboration of ideas that sticks to the point, with clearly differentiated issues, ability to interpret opinions independently – Sufficient responses to peer comments to sustain a discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Fair organization with adequate structure and composition – Relevant points made to the subject matter in question – Ability to respond to other statements and engage in class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weak content, limited use of resources – Poor organization, structure and composition – Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions – Ability to respond to other comments in simple terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources – No organization, structure or/and composition – Irrelevant points to the subject matter, no ability to interpret opinions – Fail to respond to other comments

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Discussion shed light on new dimensions of the issue 				
3. Examination	<p>Students should demonstrate knowledge of materials discussed in class and secondary sources identified independently, build up argument and analysis. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lies in a student’s self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience, and communicate these in their exam script</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Excellent grasp of research material, able to explain key concepts, assumptions and debates – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, distinct thesis, properly argued with strong narrative – Insightful interpretation of the subject matter with distinct themes and thesis – Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Firm grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts and assumptions – Reasonable organization, balanced structure, adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Clear ideas which keep to the point, clear-cut subject, ability to interpret opinions independently – Organized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comprehensive grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts – Fair organization, weak structure, adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Relevant points to the subject matter, fair ability to interpret opinions – Unorganized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Loose grasp of materials, cannot explain key concepts – Poor organization and structure, weak content, limited use of resources – Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions – Insufficient and/or unorganized bibliography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor grasp of materials – No organization and structure, inadequate content, no/irrelevant use of resources – Irrelevant points to the subject matter, minimal ability to interpret opinions – Irrelevant bibliography

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools - Strong bibliography suggesting breadth and depth of coverage and informed insights 				
4. Class Participation and Performance	<p>This assessment task reviews students' participation and performance in discussions, debates and peer critique during the tutorial sessions. The evidence of 'negotiation', the sign of discovery, lies in students' pre-class preparation and interpersonal sensitivity to his/her peer members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active in-class participation, positive listening, strong ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points - In-depth pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Interpret others' views with an open mind and ready to negotiate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points - Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Interpret opinions effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attentive in in-class participation, listening with comprehension, but only infrequently contributing - Adequate pre-class preparation but little familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Fair ability in interpreting opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unmotivated to participate in class discussion or comment on other people's views - Little pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Poor ability in interpreting opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unwilling to participate in class discussion and comment on other points, even when requested by the teacher - No pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Minimal ability in interpreting opinions

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Readiness to share personal insight via analysis and synthesis with informed views - Constructively critical, thus facilitating the discovery of new issues 				
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Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Presentation	This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show their co-operation to conduct a well-organized presentation with their own argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of 'discovery' lied in a student's self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter - Rigorous organization, coherent structure, and systematic exposition with a strong sense of narrative - Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter - Reasonable organization, balanced structure and composition - Good verbal communication: comprehensible pronunciation, fluent expression and diction, fair time-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weak content, loose grasp of the general ideas with some knowledge of the subject matter - Poor organization, structure and composition - Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, poor time-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter - No organization, structure or/and composition - Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, minimal time-management

		<p>diction, exact time-management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize 			
2. Reaction Paper	<p>This assessment will grade on rationality, clarity and fluency of argument and comment. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lies in a student’s ability to negotiate a position that is informed, defensible, and standing on personal insight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rich content, excellent ability to interpret and integrate various resources – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition – Precision in argument, well defined and reasoned points of view grounded in insightful interpretation of existing literature – Readiness to respond to peer opinion and other views initiated in class discussion – Discussion shed light on new dimensions of the issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Reasonable organization with balanced structure and composition – Clear elaboration of ideas that sticks to the point, with clearly differentiated issues, ability to interpret opinions independently – Sufficient responses to peer comments to sustain a discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weak content, limited use of resources – Poor organization, structure and composition – Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions – Ability to respond to other comments in simple terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources – No organization, structure or/and composition – Irrelevant points to the subject matter, no ability to interpret opinions – Fail to respond to other comments
3. Examination	<p>Students should demonstrate knowledge of materials discussed in class and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Excellent grasp of research material, able to explain key 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Firm grasp of materials, able to explain key 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Loose grasp of materials, cannot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor grasp of materials

	<p>secondary sources identified independently, build up argument and analysis. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lies in a student’s self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience, and communicate these in their exam script</p>	<p>concepts, assumptions and debates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, distinct thesis, properly argued with strong narrative – Insightful interpretation of the subject matter with distinct themes and thesis – Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize – Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools – Strong bibliography suggesting breadth and depth of coverage and informed insights 	<p>concepts and assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reasonable organization, balanced structure, adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Clear ideas which keep to the point, clear-cut subject, ability to interpret opinions independently – Organized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic 	<p>explain key concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor organization and structure, weak content, limited use of resources – Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions – Insufficient and/or unorganized bibliography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No organization and structure, inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources – Irrelevant points to the subject matter, minimal ability to interpret opinions – Irrelevant bibliography
4. Class Participation and Performance	<p>This assessment task reviews students’ participation and performance in discussions, debates and peer critique during the tutorial sessions. The evidence of ‘negotiation’, the sign of discovery, lies in students’ pre-class preparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Active in-class participation, positive listening, strong ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Unmotivated to participate in class discussion or comment on other people’s views – Little pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Unwilling to participate in class discussion and comment on other points, even when requested by the teacher

	<p>and interpersonal sensitivity to his/her peer members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-depth pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Interpret others' views with an open mind and ready to negotiate - Readiness to share personal insight via analysis and synthesis with informed views - Constructively critical, thus facilitating the discovery of new issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Interpret opinions effectively 	<p>reports and other materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor ability in interpreting opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Minimal ability in interpreting opinions
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Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Philosophy, phenomenology, new media theory, experience, technology, tool, intentionality, technological artefact, human-technology relations, body, virtuality, cyborg, post-humanism, Heidegger, Ihde, Verbeek

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Dreyfus, H.: An existential critique of Second Life In: <i>On the Internet. Thinking in Action</i> . (2nd Edition). New York: Routledge, 2009
2.	Harman, G: <i>Tool-being: Heidegger and the metaphysics of objects</i> . London: Open Court Publishing, 2002
3.	Haraway, D. J.: Chap. A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology and Socialist Feminism in 1980's. In <i>Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature</i> . New York: Routledge, 1991, 149—181
4.	Hayles, N. K.: <i>How we became posthuman: virtual bodies in cybernetics, literature and narrative constructions</i> . University of Chicago Press, 1999
5.	Ihde, D.: <i>Technology and the lifeworld: from garden to earth</i> . Indiana UP, 1990
6.	— <i>Postphenomenology: Essays in the Postmodern Context</i> . Chicago: Northwestern University Press., 1995
7.	Moran, D.: <i>Introduction to Phenomenology</i> . London & New York: Routledge, 2000
8.	Scharff, R. C. and Dusek, V. (eds.). <i>Philosophy of Technology. The Technological Condition. An Anthology</i> . Chichester: Blackwell Publishing, 2003
9.	Verbeek, P.-P.: Cyborg intentionality: Rethinking the phenomenology of human/technology relations. <i>Phenom Cogn Sci</i> , 7 2008, 387—395

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Don Ihde: The Technological Lifeworld. In H. Achterhuis (ed.). <i>American philosophy of technology: the empirical turn</i> . Indiana UP 2001
2.	Verbeek, P.-P.: <i>What Things Do. Philosophical reactions on technology, agency, and design</i> . The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2005