

Syllabus
Topics in Information Studies:
ICTs and Social Change (IS 287)

Dr. Leah A. Lievrouw
Winter 2001 / Friday 11:00 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.
Department of Information Studies
Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, UCLA
216 GSE&IS Building
phone 5-1840 / email LLIEVROU@UCLA.EDU

Description

It is often taken for granted that telecommunications and data processing ushered in the "information society," much as steam power, electricity and the assembly line created the "industrial society." However, the relation between technologies and social change is never simple or one-way. This seminar takes a social history approach to the social changes associated with several classes of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The invention, development and use of each technology are examined in the context of particular types of social change (social movements, social integration and differentiation, modernization, historical cycles, revolutions). Readings will be drawn from a variety of disciplines; grading will be based on participation in seminar discussions and a position paper/bibliography on the social changes associated with a particular technology of the student's choice.

Objectives

As a result of instruction in this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify and describe different types of social change
- b) Discuss the links between types of social change and various information and communication technologies

Requirements

Readings/Discussions. Because the course is taught in seminar form, students are expected to make cogent and prepared contributions to class discussions. Readings are listed below under "Weekly Topics and Readings." Students are expected to come to class having read the materials assigned for that day.

Assignments. Students will be required to prepare a bibliography on the social consequences of one particular ICT, and a short position paper summarizing the literature in the bibliography. The bibliography and position paper must conform to a standard style for research papers, such as those detailed in the APA Manual, the Chicago Manual of Style, or the MLA Stylebook. More information about the written assignment will be given in class.

Grading Formula. Grading for the course will be based on the following formula: 60% for the quality of the student's preparation for, and participation in, the seminar; and 40% for the bibliography/position paper.

Weekly Topics and Readings

Week 1

January 12 **Introduction to the Course / Orientation**

Week 2

January 19 **ICTs and Social Change**

Sztompka, P. (1993). *The Sociology of Social Change*. London: Blackwell.
Chapter 1, "Fundamental concepts in the study of change," pp. 3-23.
Chapter 2, "Vicissitudes of the idea of progress," pp. 24-40.

Winner, L. (1999 [1980]). Do artifacts have politics? In Donald MacKenzie and Judy Wacjman (eds.), *The Social Shaping of Technology* (2nd ed.), pp. 28-40. Buckingham and Philadelphia: Open University Press. (Reprinted from *Daedalus*, 109: 121-136.)

Hughes, T.P. (2000 [1994]). Technological momentum. In Albert H. Teich (ed.), *Technology and the Future* (8th ed.), pp. 26-35. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. (Reprinted from M.R. Smith and L. Marx, eds., *Does Technology Drive History?*, pp. 101-113. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.)

Week 3

January 26 **Orality and Manuscript**

Crowley, D. and Heyer, P. (Eds.) (1995). *Communication in History: Technology, Culture, Society* (2nd ed.). White Plains, NY: Longman.

Innis, H., "Media and ancient empires," pp. 29-37. (Reprinted from *Empire and Communications*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1950.)

Goody, J. and Watt, I., "The consequences of literacy," pp. 48-57. (Reprinted from Jack Goody, *Literacy in Traditional Societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975.)

Ong, W., "Orality, literacy and modern media," pp. 63-69. (Reprinted from *Orality and Literacy*. London: Methuen & Co./Routledge, 1982.)

In Sztompka:

Chapter 5, "Modernity and beyond," pp. 69-85.

Chapter 9, "Theories of modernization, old and new," pp. 129-141.

Week 4

February 2 **Print**

Eisenstein, E.L. (1983). Some features of print culture. In *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*, pp. 41-90. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Johns, A. (1998). Introduction: The book of nature and the nature of the book. In *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making*, pp. 1-57. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Hesse, C. (1996). Books in time. In Geoffrey Nunberg (ed.), *The Future of the Book*, pp. 21-36. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Week 5**February 9****Classification/Indexing**

Hobart, M.E. and Schiffman, Z.S. (1998). Printing and the rupture of classification. In *Information Ages: Literacy, Numeracy and the Computer Revolution*, pp. 87-111. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Bowker, G.C. and Star, S.L. (2000). Introduction: To classify is human. In *Sorting Things Out: Classification and its Consequences*, pp. 1-32. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Foucault, M. (1971). Preface. In *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*, pp. xv-xxiv. New York: Pantheon Books.

Week 6**February 16****Telegraphy**

John, R.R. (2000). Recasting the information infrastructure for the industrial age. In Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. and James W. Cortada, *A Nation Transformed by Information: How Information Has Shaped the United States from Colonial Times to the Present*, pp. 55-106. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

In Crowley & Heyer:

Czitrom, D.J., "Lightning lines," pp. 149-153. (Reprinted from *Media and the American Mind, From Morse to McLuhan*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982.)

Beniger, J., "The control revolution," pp. 311-321. (Reprinted from *The Control Revolution*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1986.)

Carey, J.W. (1989). Technology and ideology: The case of the telegraph. In *Communication as Culture: Essays on Media and Society*, pp. 201-230. Winchester, MA: Unwin Hyman.

Week 7**February 23****Telephony**

In Crowley & Heyer:

Fischer, C.S., "The telephone takes command," pp. 167-173. (Reprinted from *America Calling: A Social History of the Telephone to 1940*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1992.)

Marvin, C., "Early uses of the telephone," pp. 173-180. (Reprinted from *When Old Technologies Were New*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.)

Pool, I. deS. (1977). *The Social Impact of the Telephone*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Cherry, C., "The telephone system: Creator of mobility and social change," pp. 112-126.

Keller, S., "The telephone in new (and old) communities," pp. 281-298.

Graham, S. and Marvin, S. (1996). The social and cultural life of the city. In *Telecommunications and the City: Electronic Spaces, Urban Places*, pp. 171-237. London: Routledge.

Week 8

March 2

Broadcasting

Graham, M (2000). The threshold of the information age: Radio, television, and motion pictures mobilize the nation. In Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. and James W. Cortada, *A Nation Transformed by Information: How Information Has Shaped the United States from Colonial Times to the Present*, pp. 137-216. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

In Crowley & Heyer:

Kern, S., "Wireless world," pp. 228-232. (Reprinted from *The Culture of Time and Space: 1880-1918*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1983.)

Douglas, S.J., "Broadcasting begins," pp. 232-240. (Reprinted from *Inventing American Broadcasting*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987.)

Spigel, L., "Making room for TV," pp. ??? (Reprinted from *Make Room for TV*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1992.)

In Sztompka:

Chapter 19, "Social movements as forces of change," pp. 274-300.

Week 9

March 9

Computing/Digital Media

Ceruzzi, P. (2000 [1986]). An unforeseen revolution: Computers and expectations, 1935-1985. In Albert H. Teich (ed.), *Technology and the Future* (8th ed.), pp. 190-201. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. (Reprinted from Joseph J. Corn, ed., *Imagining Tomorrow: History, Technology and the American Future*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.)

Rhodes, R. (Ed.) (1999). *Visions of Technology*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Bush, V., "A vision of hypertext," pp. 171-172.

Licklider, J.C.R., "The Internet primeval," pp. 274-277.

Rich, F., "Deep blues," p. 362-363.

Calhoun, C. (1992). The infrastructure of modernity: Indirect social relationships, information technology, and social integration. In Hans Haferkamp and Neil J. Smelser, *Social Change and Modernity*, pp. 205-236. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

In Crowley & Heyer:

Weizenbaum, J., "Computers, tools and human reason," pp. 348-358. (Reprinted from Joseph Weizenbaum, *Computer Power and Human Reason*. New York: W.H. Freeman and Company.)

Week 10
March 16

Satellites/Convergent Technologies/Globalization?

In Rhodes:

Clarke, A.C., "Predictions: Geosynchrony," p. 160-161.

In Sztompka:

Chapter 6, "The globalization of human society," pp. 86-96.

Chapter 20, "Revolutions: The peak of social change," pp. 301-321.

Castells, M. (1989). Conclusion: The reconstruction of social meaning in the space of flows. In *The Informational City*, pp. 348-353. Oxford: Blackwell.

Virilio, P. (2000). (Chapter 2.) *The Information Bomb*, pp. 7-18. New York: Verso.