

# POS 4025: Technology and Politics

Fall 2023

Class meeting times:

Tuesday, 11:45-1:40

Thursday 12:50-1:40

Anderson 34

**Prof. Thiele's Office Hours: Thursday 1:45-3:45 in Anderson 302**

[thiele@ufl.edu](mailto:thiele@ufl.edu)

[www.clas.ufl.edu/users/thiele/](http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/thiele/)

[Links to an external site.](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

## About the course

How will your personal, social and political life be impacted, and potentially transformed, by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital media, synthetic biology, nanotechnology, robotics, quantum computing, augmented reality and virtual reality?

*Technology and Politics* prepares students to grapple with the transformations that will ensue from fast-moving technological developments. The course is interdisciplinary, integrative and largely discussion based. Being prepared for the future entails the

cultivation of collaboration skills as well as writing, speaking and digital media communication skills. As such, team projects and multi-media class presentations are crucial course components.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students taking this course will learn how to:

1. Critically analyze national and risks, dangers, costs, benefits and opportunities stemming from technological developments.
2. Engage and understand diverse perspectives in an age of technological globalization.
3. Think responsibly and creatively about the future.
4. Communicate and collaborate with diverse individuals to develop and share knowledge pertaining to the political, social and ethical challenges associated with technology.

### **Work expectations:**

Students will be reading books and journal articles, listening to podcasts, and viewing films and videos. Classes will be discussion based. Attendance and participation is required. Oftentimes, the most creative approach to inquiry and problem-solving entails uncovering the complexity of the challenge and deepening the questions that should be asked. Good questions inform. Deep questions transform.

Prof. Thiele is eager to respond to all email inquiries—unless the requested information is available on Canvas, in other documents provided, or was addressed in class. If you do not receive a response to an email inquiry, it is because the information was already made available to you. In such cases, refer to available documents or confer with a classmate.

### **Required Readings:**

Rob Reid, *After On* (Del Rey, 2017; FYI, the Audible version is excellent)

Other online required readings and resources are listed in the Course Schedule.

## **Assignments and Grading**

### Attendance and Participation: 10 points

To receive full participation marks, you will need to contribute thoughtful questions, observations, and well-grounded assertions to most class sessions. Participation grades are not something you receive by showing up. They are earned each class based on both the quality and the frequency of your participation. To receive an A in participation, contributions have to be regular and of very good quality, which is to say, well-grounded in the readings, other resources, and lectures. If your contributions are less frequent or fail to skillfully reference readings, other resources, and lectures, the highest participation grade you can receive is a B.

If you arrive for class after attendance is taken, you will be marked absent. Medical documentation is required for an excused absence.

### Two Term papers: 30 points each for a total of 60 points

### Collaborative PowerPoint Presentation and Script: 30 points

Grading Scale:

A	100-93%	C	< 77 – 73%
A-	< 93-90%	C-	< 73 – 70%
B+	< 90– 87%	D+	< 70 – 67%
B	< 87– 83%	D	< 67 – 63%
B-	< 83 – 80%	D-	< 63 – 60%
C+	< 80 – 77%	E	< 60 %

N.B. – Grades are not rounded up. So, for example, a 92.99 is an A-, and an 86.99 is a B.

For more information, see UF's [grading and grading policies](#).

[Links to an external site.](#)

*Honor Code* - Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The [Honor Code](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) enumerates specifically prohibited behaviors and sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

All students are required to abide by [UF’s Honor Code](#).

[Links to an external site.](#) An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing information so that one gains academic advantage. Plagiarism in presentations or term papers will result in failure of the course.

*Students with disabilities* – If you experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

*Course evaluation* - Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/)

Students are encouraged to provide both a mid-term and final course evaluation.

## **Academic and Campus Resources**

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)

[Library Support](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

[Teaching Center](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)- Broward Hall, General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)- 2215 Turlington Hall, Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu/](http://umatter.ufl.edu/) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit [counseling.ufl.edu/](http://counseling.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [shcc.ufl.edu/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/).

*University Police Department:* Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

For information relating to protection of your privacy as a UF Student, visit this site: <https://privacy.ufl.edu/privacy-policies-and-procedures/onlineinternet-privacy-statement/>

[Links to an external site.](#)

For information relating to the protection of your privacy in relation to course participation, see these documents for [Zoom](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) and [Canvas](#)

## **Course Schedule**

**August 24: Introduction to class**

**August 29, 31: Technology, Politics, and the Human Prospect**

Readings: Leslie Paul Thiele, “Technology and the Human Prospect” (PDF is in Files); [“The Politics of Technology Links to an external site.”](#) at the *Frontiers of Political Science* (2:2: May 2020); Listen to Prof. Thiele's interview with Rob Reid when he visited UF, which he posted to his podcasts: [Episode 42: Life, the Universe & Everything – Live, from Florida!](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

### September 5, 7: Agency and Regulation in the Attention Economy

Readings: *After On*, up to p. 53 (Audible through Chapter 4); *After On podcast*: Meron Gribetz on Augmented Reality; [“Recognizr: Facial Recognition Coming to Android Phones;](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)” NeoScribe, “Augmented Reality 2030” at [Augmented Reality 2030 Links to an external site.](#)



; Gatebox, “Living with your favorite character”: [Gatebox - Promotion Movie Links to an external site.](#)



; <https://www.magicleap.com>

[Links to an external site.](#)

## September 12, 14: Distraction and Dependence: The Loss of Reflective Self-Direction

Readings: Tristan Harris TED Talk, "[How a Handful of Companies Control a Billion Minds;](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)" Andrew Sullivan, "[I Used to be a Human Being Links to an external site.](#)" *New York Magazine* (September 19, 2016); TED Talk Scott Galloway on "[How Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google manipulate our emotions Links to an external site.](#)"; Zeynep Tufekci, "[We're Building a Dystopia Just to Make People Click on Ads](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Recommended: Watch the film 'The Social Dilemma' (Netflix)

## September 19, 21: Distraction and Dependence: The Loss of Reflective Self-Direction

Readings: [Why Your Brain Can't Fight Distraction](#)



[Links to an external site.](#) (8 minute video); Lanier, Jaron. "[Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Right Now; Links to an external site.](#)" "[Why every social media site is a dumpster fire Links to an external site.](#)





"; [Students unplug for 24 hours;](#) " [Links to an external site.](#)Conclusions of 'A World Unplugged' Study [Links to an external site.](#)"; [Links to an external site.](#)Wendell Berry, "[Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer](#) [Links to an external site.](#);" Wendell Berry "[Feminism, the Body, and the Machine](#) [Links to an external site.](#)"

[Links to an external site.](#)

Recommended: Watch the *Black Mirror* episode "Nosedive" (Netflix)

**September 26: AI-inspired paper started in class;**

### **Lecture on Deskillling: The Atrophy of Cognitive and Social Aptitudes**

Readings: *After On*, 53-121 (Audible through Chapter 9). *After On podcast*: Adam Gazzaley on Consciousness and Neuroscience

**September 28: Deskillling: The Atrophy of Cognitive and Social Aptitudes**

**October 10, 12: Dogmatism: The Eclipse of Common Truths and the Decay of Civic Trust**

Readings: *After On*, 121-196 (Audible through Chapter 17); *After On podcast*: Cindy Cohn on Privacy and Government Intrusion; Eli Pariser, TED Talk "[Beware Online Filter Bubbles](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)”

### October 17, 19: Dogmatism: The Eclipse of Common Truths and the Decay of Civic Trust

Readings: Leslie Paul Thiele, “Digital Politics is the Game: See What Happens When Scholars Play It Well!” *Perspectives*, 16:4, 1123-1128, December 2018; Yaël Eisenstat's TED Talk, "[Dear Facebook, this is how you're breaking Democracy](#);



[Links to an external site.](#)” Matthew Carney, “[Leave No Dark Corner Links to an external site.](#)”; “[One Clear Message From Voters This Election? More Privacy](#)”; “[Links to an external site.](#)” “[Cambridge Analytica Uncovered Links to an external site.](#)”; WSJ, “[Deep Fake Videos are Getting Real Links to an external site.](#)”; “[Exposing China’s Digital Dystopian Dictatorship](#)”



[Links to an external site.](#)”

**October 24: Second paper written in class**

## October 26: Despair: Passivity in the Face of Predictive Power

Readings: *After On*, 196-252 (Audible through Chapter 22). *After On podcast*: Andy Hessel on Synthetic Biology; George Church on Bioengineering; and Daniel Kraft on Exponential Medicine; Check out: <http://neurosky.com/about-neurosky/>

[Links to an external site.](#); Check out the quantified self at [Measured Me](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

## October 31, November 2: Despair: Passivity in the Face of Predictive Power

### TeamWork Session

Readings: *After On*, 252-285 (Audible through Chapter 25); *After On podcast*: Steve Jurvelton on Quantum Computing; Chris Anderson, “[The End of Theory: The Data Deluge Makes the Scientific Method Obsolete](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)” *Wired*, June 23, 2008; Google's '[Sycamore](#)' quantum computer



[Links to an external site.](#)

;

Readings on TeamWork: Understand the findings of Google's [Project Aristotle](#);

[Links to an external site.](#) Read Charles Duhigg's *New York Times* article "[What Google Learned in their Quest to Build a Perfect Team](#)"

[Links to an external site.](#)"

**November 7, 9: Digital Distancing--Dispositions, Habits, and Skills of Self-Leadership and Service**

**TeamWork Session**

Readings: *After On*, 289-382 (Audible through Chapter 31); *After On podcast*: Sam Harris on Terrorism"; Rob Reid, "[The Ender](#)"

[Links to an external site.:](#)"

**November 14, 16: Digital Distancing--Dispositions, Habits, and Skills of Self-Leadership and Service**

**TeamWork Session**

Readings: *After On*, 382-489 (Audible through Chapter 35); *After On podcast*: James Barrat on Dangers of Superintelligence; Concluding pages of Isaac Assimov's *I, Robot* (PDF is in Files); *Your Undivided Attention*, "[AI Myths and Misperceptions](#)"

[Links to an external site.](#)"

Recommended readings: Nicholas Thompson and Ian Bremmer, *Wired*: "[The AI Cold War that Could Doom Us All](#)"

[Links to an external site.;" AI: Mankind's Last Invention: Artificial Intelligence: Mankind's Last Invention Links to an external site.:"](#)



[Deep Learning: Links to an external site.](#)

[Google's Deep Mind Explained!" Links to an external site.](#)



Wait But Why? on ["The AI Revolution Links to an external site.;" "](#) [Links to an external site.](#)



[AI Codes its Own 'AI Child' Links to an external site.](#) " Miquel Casas,  
["The technological singularity and the transhumanist dream" Links to an external site.](#) ['The Godfather of A.I.' Leaves Google and Warns of Danger Ahead](#)

[Links to an external site."](#)

Recommended: Watch the film '*Ex Machina*'

**November 21: No class meeting: Final TeamWork session to be arranged by team members**

## November 28, 30 and December 5: Our Vulnerable World and Team PowerPoint Presentations

Readings: *After On*, 489-547 (Audible through Chapter 38): *After On podcast*: Steven Webb on Fermi's Paradox/Where are all the aliens? and Episode 40: Avi Loeb on Our Interstellar Visitor; and Martin Rees On the Future; Wait But Why? on "[The Fermi Paradox](#)"

[Links to an external site.](#)": Nick Bostrom, "The Vulnerable World Hypothesis," *Global Policy* 10:4, 2019, pp. 455-476, available at: <https://nickbostrom.com/>

[Links to an external site.](#)

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## Bibliographic and Online Resources for Your Exploration:

### Non-fiction monographs

Agrawal, Ajay, Joshua Gans and Avi Goldfarb. 2018. *Prediction Machines*

Allenby, Bradley, and Daniel Sarewitz. 2011. *The Techno-Human Condition*

Alter, Adam. 2017. *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us*

Barrat, James. 2015. *Our Final Invention: Artificial Intelligence and the End of the Human Era*

Barrett, Dierdre. 2010. *Supernormal Stimuli*

Bess, Michael. 2015. *Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Live in the Bioengineered Society of the Future*

Brynjolfsson, Erik and Andrew McAfee. 2017. *Machine, Platform, Crowd*

Brynjolfsson, Erik and Andrew McAfee. 2014. *The Second Machine Age*

Bostrom, Nick. 2014. *Superintelligence*.

Butler, Samuel, 1872. *Erewhon*

Carr, Nicholas. 2014. *The Glass Cage: How Computers are Changing Us*

Carr, Nicholas . 2011. *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*

**Carr, Nicholas. 2016. *Utopia is Creepy***

**Church, George & E. Regis. 2012. *Regenesis: How Synthetic Biology will Reinvent Nature and Ourselves***

**Dauvergne, Peter. 2020. *AI in the Wild: Sustainability in the Age of Artificial Intelligence***

**Diamandis, Peter and Steven Kotler. 2014. *Abundance: The Future is Better than you Think***

Domingos, Pedro. 2015. *The Master Algorithm*.

Doudna, Jennifer. *A Crack in Creation*

Ellul, Jacques. 1964. *The Technological Society*

Eyal, Nir. *Hooked and Indistractable*

Foroohar, Rana. 2019. *Don't be evil: How Big Tech Betrayed its Founding Principles—and All of Us*

Frischmann, Brett and Evan Selinger. 2018. *Re-engineering Humanity*

Fukuyama, Francis. 2002. *Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution*

Garreau, Joel. 2005. *Radical Evolution*

Grinspoon, David. 2017. *Earth in Human Hands*

Harraway, Donna. 1990. *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*

Harari, Yuval Noah. 2016. *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*

Hari, Johann. *Stolen Focus*

Heidegger, Martin. 1954. *The Question Concerning Technology*

Hendricks, Vincent F. and Mads Vestergaard. 2019. *Reality Lost: Markets of Attention, Misinformation and Manipulation.*

Howard, Philip. 2015. *Pax Technica: How the Internet of Things May Set Us Free or Lock Us Up*

Hughes, James. 2004. *Citizen Cyborg*

Kelly, Kevin. 2011. *What Technology Wants*

Kelly, Kevin. 1994. *Out of Control*

King, Brett et al. 2016. *Augmented*

Kurzweil, Ray. 2005. *The Singularity is Near*

Kurzweil, Ray. 2012. *How to Create a Mind*

Lanier, Jaron. 2018. *Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now*



Lee, Kai-Fu. 2018. *AI Super-Powers*

Lembke, Anna. Dopamine Nation

Lewis, C. S. 1944. *The Abolition of Man*

Lilley, Stephen, ed. 2013. *Transhumanism and Society: The Social Debate over Human Enhancement*

Mark, Gloria. Attention Span.

McKibben, Bill. 2004. *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age*

McKibben, Bill. 2019. *Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out*

Markoff, John. 2015. *Machines of Loving Grace*

Malone, Thomas. 2018. *Superminds*

Morozov, Evgeny. 2012. *The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom*

Metzl, Jamie. *Hacking Darwin*

Mumford, Lewis. 1970. *The Myth of the Machine*

Nietzsche, Friedrich. 1885. *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

Noble, David. 1999. *The Religion of Technology: The Divinity of Man and the Spirit of Invention*

O'Neil, Cathy, 2017. *Weapons of Math Destruction*

Pariser, Eli. 2011. *The Filter Bubble: What the Internet Is Hiding from You*

Pentland, Alex. 2014. *Social Physics: How Good Ideas Spread*

Pinker, Steven. 2018. *Enlightenment Now*

Postrel, Virginia. 1999. *The Future and its Enemies*

**Reese, Byron. 2013. *Infinite Progress***

**Reese, Byron. *The Fourth Age: Smart Robots, Conscious Computers, and the Future of Humanity.***

**Reich, Rob, Mehran Sahami and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2021. *System Error***

Rees, Martin. 2018. *On the Future*

Ross, Alec. 2016. *The Industries of the Future*

Rubin, Peter. 2018. *Future Presence*

Rushkoff, Douglas. 2013. *Present Shock*

Russell, Stuart, *Human Compatible*

Silver, Lee. 2007. *Remaking Eden*

Simon, Charles. 2018, *Will Computers Revolt*

Sinan, Aral. *The Hype Machine*

Susskind, Jamie. 2018. *Future Politics*

Sunstein, Cass. 2017. *#Republic: Divided Democracy in the Age of Social Media*

Tegmark, Max. 2017. *Life 3.0*

Tenner, E. 1997. *Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences*

Tofler, Alvin. 1970. *Future Shock*

Turkle, S. 2017. *Alone Together: Why We Expect more from Technology and Less from Each Other*

Twenge, Jean M. 2017. *iGen: Why today's Super-Connected Kids are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood*

Vallor, Shannon. 2016. *Technology and the Virtues*

Webb and Hessel, *The Genesis Machine*

Williams, Florence. 2017. *The Nature Fix*

Winner, Langdon. 1989. *The Whale and the Reactor*

Wu, Tim. 2016. *The Attention Merchants*

Zuboff, Shoshana. 2019. *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*

## Fiction

“Modern science fiction is the only form of literature that consistently considers the nature of the changes that face us, the possible consequences, and the possible solutions.” Isaac Assimov

Assimov, Isaac. *I, Robot*

Atwood, Margaret. *Oryx and Crake*, and *In the Year of the Flood*

Banks, Iain. *Consider Phlebas*

Brown, Dan. *Origin*

Butler, Octavia, *Parable of the Sower*

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*

Clarke, Authur C. *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Childhood's End*

Cline, Ernest. *Ready Player One*

Dick, Philip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*

Divya, S.B., *Machinehood*

Forster, E. M. [The Machine Stops](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Gibson, William. *Neuromancer*

Heinlein, Robert. *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*

Herbert, Frank. *Dune*

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*

Kling, Marc-Uwe, *Qualityland*

Marlowe, Christopher. *Dr. Faustus*

McKibben, Bill. *Radio Free Vermont*

McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*

McEwan, Ian. *Machines Like Me*

Naam, Ramez. *Nexus*

Orwell, George. *1984*

Powers, Richard. *The Overstory*

Robinson, Kim Stanley, *Ministry for the Future*

Shelley, Mary Wollstencraft. *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*

Skinner, B.F. *Walden Two*

Stephenson, Neal. *Snow Crash*

Stephenson, Neal. *Diamond Age*

Stephenson, *Termination Shock*

Suarez, Daniel. *Daemon*

Vinge, Vernon. *A Fire upon the Deep*

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Player Piano*

Wells, H.G. *The Island of Dr. Moreau*

## Films

### Highly Recommended:

*Ex Machina*

*Black Mirror* (Netflix series)

*Metropolis* (Fritz Lang, 1926)

*Colossus: The Forbin Project*

*The Machine*

*Blade Runner* (original, not Blade Runner 2049)

*Her*

*The Singularity is Near*

*Supersapiens* (documentary)

*Manchurian Candidate* (2004 version – good; 1962 – better)

*The Matrix*

*The Terminator*

*Gattaca*

*2001: A Space Odyssey*

*Selfless*

*The Circle*

*Minority Report*

*Wall-E*

*Westworld* (Netflix series)

*The Future 360* (Discovery Channel documentary)

*Lawnmower Man*

Acceptable, if you have nothing better to watch:

*Free Guy*

*The Feed* (series; great start and premise, but then gets infected by zombie themes)

*Ready Player One*

*A Clockwork Orange Bicentennial Man*

*Transcendent Man*

*The Boys from Brazil* (cloning Hitler)

*I, Robot*

*Splice*

*Transcendence*

*A.I. Artificial Intelligence*

*The Island*

*Elyseum*

*Ender's Game*

*Transcendence*

*HUMANS* (UK series on AMC)

*Morgan*

Cyborgs. Should We Be Better Than We Are?

Online videos and Podcasts

Center for Humane Technology. 2019. Accessed at: <https://humanetech.com/>

[Links to an external site.](#)

Ford, Martin. "[How we'll earn money in a future without jobs](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)"

Harris, Sam. "[Can We Build AI Without Losing Control Over It?](#)"



[Links to an external site.](#)

Long Now Foundation, Seminars about Long-term Thinking Podcast: almost all of these are worthwhile, e.g. Paul Saffo: The Creator Economy; Michael Shermer: The Long Arc of Moral Progress; Ramez Naam: Enhancing Humans, Advancing Humanity; Drew Endy and Jim Thomas on Synthetic Biology; Michael West and Ken Dychtwald on Human Life Extension

Robots: Boston Dynamics robot: [Atlas, The Next Generation](#)



[Links to an external site.](#)

“Should we Design our Babies” podcast or video

And see “A Bionic approach to prosthetics” Darnofsky, Marcy vs Nita Farahani,

[In Depth: Should We Design Our Babies? :\(](#)



[Links to an external site.](#)

“Slaughterbots,” fictional depiction of flying killer drones the size of beetles:

[Slaughterbots \(Links to an external site.\)](#)



[Links to an external site.](#)

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Reports and articles:

Annas, George et al. 2002. "Protecting the Endangered Human: Toward an International Treaty Prohibiting

[Links to an external site.](#)Cloning and Inheritable Alterations," *American Journal of Law and Medicine* 28/2-3

Bison, Terry. "They're Made Out of Meat," <http://www.terrybisson.com/page6/page6.html> ([Links to an external site.](#))

[Links to an external site.](#)

Bostrom, Nick. 2001. "The Future of Humanity" *The New Republic* (May 21, 2001), 265-76.

Bostrom, Nick, 2008 "[Why I Want to be a Posthuman When I Grow Up](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)"

Gerst, M.D., Raskin, P.D. and Rockström, J., 2014. "Contours of a Resilient Global Future", *Sustainability*, 6:123-135.

<http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/6/1/123/htm> ([Links to an external site.](#))

[Links to an external site.](#)

Haldane, J.B.S. 1923. *Daedalus, or, Science and the Future*

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/haldane/works/1920s/daedalus.htm> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Harari, Yuval Noah. 2018 (October) “[Why Technology Favors Tyranny](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)” *The Atlantic*

Heidegger, Martin (1951), “[Building, Dwelling, Thinking](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)”

Joy, Bill. 2000. “Why the Future Doesn’t Need Us,” *Wired* 8.04, April 2000

<http://archive.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy.html> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Kaczynski, Ted. “Industrial Society and its Future/The Unabomber Manifesto,”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/unabomber/manifesto.text.htm> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Kass, Leon. “Preventing a Brave New World” <https://web.stanford.edu/~mvr2j/sfsu09/extra/Kass3.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Kurzweil, Ray. On becoming “Godlike,” *Huffington Post*,

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/ray-kurzweil-nanobots-brain-godlike\\_560555a0e4b0af3706db1e2](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/ray-kurzweil-nanobots-brain-godlike_560555a0e4b0af3706db1e2) (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Lanier, Jaron. 2000 “One Half a Manifesto,” *Edge*

[https://edge.org/conversation/jaron\\_lanier-one-half-a-manifesto](https://edge.org/conversation/jaron_lanier-one-half-a-manifesto) (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Latour, Bruno. 2012. “Love Your Monster”

<https://thebreakthrough.org/index.php/journal/past-issues/issue-2/love-your-monsters> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

[Machinehood Manifesto](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

More, Max. “The Proactionary Principle,” <http://www.extropy.org/proactionaryprinciple.htm> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

National Science Foundation. 2003, “*Converging Technologies for Improving Human Performance: nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science*”

[http://www.wtec.org/ConvergingTechnologies/Report/NBIC\\_report.pdf](http://www.wtec.org/ConvergingTechnologies/Report/NBIC_report.pdf) (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

New York Times, Banning military robots:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/28/technology/elon-musk-and-stephen-hawking-among-hundreds-to-urge-ban-on-military-robots.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20150728&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=71023177](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/28/technology/elon-musk-and-stephen-hawking-among-hundreds-to-urge-ban-on-military-robots.html?emc=edit_th_20150728&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=71023177) (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/17/opinion/robot-weapons-whats-the-harm.html?emc=edit_th_20150817&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=70697315&_r=0); see as well: [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/17/opinion/robot-weapons-whats-the-harm.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20150817&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=70697315&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/17/opinion/robot-weapons-whats-the-harm.html?emc=edit_th_20150817&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=70697315&_r=0) (Links to an external site.)

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## What is Transhumanism

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*Forecasting and the Future*: Crow, M. 2007. "None Dare Call It Hubris: The Limits of Knowledge." *Issues in Science and Technology*, Winter: 1-4: [https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~step/Journal\\_Club/paper3\\_092210.pdf](https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~step/Journal_Club/paper3_092210.pdf)

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## Institutes:

**Center for Humane Technology:** <https://humanetech.com/>

### Links to an external site.

**Acceleration Studies Foundation:** <http://www.accelerating.org/about.html> (**Links to an external site.**)

### Links to an external site.

**Centre for the Study of Existential Risk:** <https://www.cser.ac.uk/> (**Links to an external site.**)

### Links to an external site.

**Foresight Institute,** <http://www.foresight.org> (*Links to an external site.*)

[Links to an external site.](#)

**Future of Humanity Institute:** <https://www.fhi.ox.ac.uk/> (Links to an external site.)

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**Future of Life Institute:** <https://futureoflife.org/> (Links to an external site.)

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[Human Centered Artificial Intelligence Initiative \(Stanford\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

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In Pursuit of the Future, Cardiff University: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/futures/index.html> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies, <http://www.ieet.org> (Links to an external site.)

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Kurzweil Accelerating Intelligence, [www.kurzweilai.net](http://www.kurzweilai.net) (Links to an external site.)

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Machine Intelligence Research Institute, <https://intelligence.org/> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.](#)

**Singularity University:** <https://su.org/> (Links to an external site.)

[Links to an external site.; https://singularityhub.com/#sm.000cmo9vh1clff9dxpr1qck6xyy6d](https://singularityhub.com/#sm.000cmo9vh1clff9dxpr1qck6xyy6d) (Links to an external site.)

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Society for the Study of New and Emerging Technologies, S.NET <http://www.thesnet.net/> (Links to an external site.)

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[Links to an external site.](#)

### **Food for Thought:**

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

**Alan Kay (who created the interface for the first Apple Macintosh)**

**“When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong. The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible. Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”**

**Arthur C. Clarke (“Three laws of prediction”)**

“Impossible to see, the future is!” and so ”Careful you must be when sensing the future....The fear of loss is a path to the Dark Side”

Master Yoda, from *Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith*



**“I've come up with a set of rules that describe our reactions to technologies:**

- 1. Anything that is in the world when you're born is normal and ordinary and is just a natural part of the way the world works.**
- 2. Anything that's invented between when you're fifteen and thirty-five is new and exciting and revolutionary and you can probably get a career in it.**
- 3. Anything invented after you're thirty-five is against the natural order of things.”**

**Douglas Adams, from *The Salmon of Doubt***

## **Course Summary:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Due</b>
Tue Sep 1, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Sep 8, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Sep 10, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Sep 15, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Sep 17, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Sep 22, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Sep 24, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Due</b>
Tue Sep 29, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Oct 1, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Oct 6, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Oct 8, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Oct 13, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Oct 15, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Oct 20, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Oct 22, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Oct 27, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Oct 29, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Nov 3, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Nov 5, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Nov 10, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Nov 12, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Nov 17, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Nov 19, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Nov 26, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Dec 1, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Thu Dec 3, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Tue Dec 8, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">POS4931-3C32(19974) - Special Topics</a>	10:40am to 11:40am
Fri Dec 11, 2020	Calendar Event <a href="#">University of Florida GatorEvals – Fall 2020</a>	11:59pm
	Calendar Event <a href="#">University of Florida GatorEvals – Fall 2020</a>	11:59pm
Tue Sep 26, 2023	Assignment <a href="#">Word document of AI Q&amp;A session completed in class September 26</a>	due by 2pm
Tue Oct 10, 2023	Assignment <a href="#">AI-Inspired Term Paper</a>	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 24, 2023	Assignment <a href="#">Single photo of all pages written in class on Oct 24</a>	due by 2pm
Tue Nov 7, 2023	Assignment <a href="#">AI-revised Term Paper</a>	due by 11:59pm

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Due</b>
Sun Nov 26, 2023	Assignment <a href="#">Collaborative PowerPoint Presentation and Script</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 6, 2023	Assignment <a href="#">Peer Evaluation for Collaborative Presentation</a> Assignment <a href="#">Attendance and Participation</a>	due by 11:59pm