

L & S 160E- Technology, New Media and Contemporary Experience Final Paper and Presentation

Description: Throughout the semester we have been exploring a range of cutting edge technologies and seeking to demonstrate the way in which our current approach to these different fields exhibit the characteristics that Martin Heidegger formulated in his 1954 essay “The Question Concerning Technology”. Our goal has been to see beyond the utopian and dystopian claims that tend to dominate the discussion of these technologies toward what Heidegger describes as their essence, which for him is demonstrated in their action of Enframing.

Topic: Your final assignment for the class consists of two parts, both of which are described below. Prior to starting, you will form individual groups of 4-5 students and then work as a group to select any specific and demonstrate how it either **fulfills or disrupts** Heidegger’s description of the essence of technology (either modern or post-modern). Your work should demonstrate an understanding of both Heidegger’s thought and the technology you are analyzing.

Part 1-Group Presentation: As a group you will be responsible for giving a 10-15 minute presentation of your chosen technology to the class. At the very least this should utilize visual materials (i.e. Power Point) to organize your ideas and present your points, and it should in some way incorporate the participation of all of the members of your group. The best presentations will be both **informative** and **engaging** in the sense that they will not only provide the audience with information but do it in a way that is thought provoking and stimulating. Get creative! These will be given group grades.

Details:

Length: 10-15 minutes total for the group

Due: May 11th

Weight: 20% of your final grade

Part 2-Individual Paper: Utilizing the information that you gathered as a group, and any other information and research you might have put together on your own, you will write a 5 or 8 page paper on your topic (5 pages if this is a new topic, 8 pages if you are revisiting the topic you wrote about already.) If the presentation gives a broad overview, the paper will be the place where you present greater depth on one particular sub-area that you find to be most compelling or relevant about the topic. Be sure to look closely at the feedback you received on your mid-term paper and keep it in mind as you work on the final paper. If you have questions about either, please feel free to come see me in office hours.

Details:

Length: 5 pages double spaced, approximately 1200 words

Due: May 11th at the start of class (no late papers accepted)

Weight: 20% of your final grade

Tips for giving a good presentation:

1. Start early.
2. Speak with confidence and clarity while making eye contact with your audience.
3. SPEAK UP! It may feel like you're yelling, but you won't be.
4. Practice, practice, practice both as a group and individually. The more times you have done this, the smoother it will go.
5. Don't clutter your slides. Remember the rule of 6's (no more than 6 lines per slide, and 6 words per line).
6. Don't simply read your slides. Ideally your slides will build on what you're saying and vice versa. At all costs they should not simply replicate one another.
7. Smile and try to have fun. If we see that you are interested in what you're saying we are inclined to feel the same way.

Tips for writing a good paper:

1. Start early.
2. Come see one of us in office hours to discuss your ideas.
3. Recall that you are constructing an argument that you are attempting to convince your reader of, so be sure to state this claim clearly at some point. To this end, avoid lengthy descriptions of things except insofar as they serve as evidence of your claim. The internet is full of descriptions of how things work and these don't need to be replicated in your paper. What's unique is your particular point, and this is what your paper should focus on.
4. Avoid relying too much on your own experience to prove your point; your experience may be yours alone. Instead find examples/sources that demonstrate how your technology is used and the relationship it sets up between humans and the world. Newspapers, periodicals, television commercials, trade publications, advertisements, and books are all viable sources to illustrate your claims. Some time on the library databases using your technology as a search term can be invaluable, but you will likely need to comb through the results. Try multiple databases to get a variety of things.
5. Make sure that your paper addresses the topic on the other side of this sheet! All too often people ignore the prompt or don't read it carefully enough and turn in a fine essay that fails to answer question at hand.
6. Read your paper out-loud to yourself; this will help you catch grammar errors and poor wording. Then have someone else read it as well. If they're not convinced of your point or don't understand what you're saying, chances are it isn't clear.
7. DON'T TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS OR WORDS. This is called plagiarism and is grounds for disciplinary action by the University. Instead, quote your sources and get credit for writing a genuine research paper that is in conversation with the larger body of thought about your topic.