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Philosophy of Technology:

This course will introduce philosophy of technology through major texts in the Continental tradition, and recent approaches to technology studies in the social sciences. We will begin with the philosophical work of Heidegger and his student Marcuse. Heidegger proposed the now classic theory of the "enframing," the most sophisticated version of the idea of the domination of human beings by their own technology. Marcuse's neo-Marxist theory has some similarities to Heidegger's, however, he opens up the possibility of a radical transformation of technology. These radical critiques of technology appear outdated to Lyotard, the chief philosopher behind the "postmodern" movement. We will next discuss a book by Don Ihde on the phenomenology of technology. The approach here is less critical and emphasizes the everyday experience of technology in its cultural aspect. The contributions of recent science and technology studies are represented by articles by Pinch and Bijker, a collection of case studies by Collins and Pinch and a book by Latour. The constructivist approach is non-determinist and focuses on the empirical study of cases. We will then read my recent book which draws on all these sources to present an approach I call "critical constructivism." We will conclude with a book in which several authors apply critical constructivism to the study of information technology.

Format: This is a graduate seminar. There will be lectures, brief student presentations, and discussion. Students are expected to participate actively. Grading will be based on participation (50%) and a research paper (50%).

Readings:

Articles on Line:
Pinch and Bijker, "The Social Construction of Facts and Artifacts"
Heidegger, "Traditional Language and Technological Language"
Dreyfus, "Heidegger on Gaining a Free Relation to Technology"

Books:

Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology,* Harper Colophon
Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man,* Beacon Press
Ihde, *Technology and the Lifeworld,* Indiana
Feenberg, *Between Reason and Experience,* MIT
Feenberg and Friesen, *(Re)Inventing the Internet,* Sense
Collins and Pinch, *The Golem at Large,* Cambridge

Reading List by week:

1. Feenberg, introduction to the course
2. Heidegger, "Traditional Language and Technological Language," Dreyfus, "Heidegger on Gaining a Free Relation to Technology," Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology,* "The Question Concerning Technology"
3. Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man,* Introduction, Preface, pp. 1-120
4. Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man,* pp. 123-257
5. Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*
6. Ihde, *Technology and the Lifeworld,* pp. 1-123
7. Ihde, *Technology and the Lifeworld,* pp. 124-224
8. Pinch and Bijker, "The Social Construction of Facts and Artifacts," Collins and Pinch, *The Golem at Large*
9. Latour, *We Have Never Been Modern*
10. Feenberg, *Between Reason and Experience,* preface*,* pp. 1-124
11. Feenberg, *Between Reason and Experience,* pp. 127-226
12. Feenberg and Friesen, *(Re)Inventing the Internet*