The primary focus of this course is to familiarize students with the **general history** of the developments of technology (**not of any specific technology**) up to our time, factors (existing science, worldviews, society and technologies) that contributed to those developments, and the major effects of technologies on human life, society and the environment. The ultimate aim is to enable students to think critically of any technology by considering the ways it affects how we think, act and live. The course is more philosophical than technical.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: February 16**
Lecture 1: Introduction, Objective and Outline of the course.
Work in Nonindustrial Societies (Volti, Chapt 9)

**Week 2: February 23**
**Rise of Modern Science and Technology and their Effects on Society**
Islamic contributions to Modern Science and Technology prior to the 17th century:
Students must watch both part I and Part II available on YouTube before coming to the class:
Part 1: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLay7RD3kEw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLay7RD3kEw)
Part 2: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OA17j3wxrl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OA17j3wxrl)
(For the exams, students must know only the contents of the lecture/discussion in the class)

**Week 3: March 2**
Scientific Revolution of the 17th century (Students must take notes)

**Week 4: March 9**
**First Exam**
Discuss the BBC documentary about the Industrial Revolution in England during the 18th and the 19th centuries: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhF_zVrz3RQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhF_zVrz3RQ) (First 40 minutes)

**Week 5: March 16**
Distinctions between Modern and Traditional Technology
Then we will discuss the contents of the following documentary:
Watch: The Magician’s Twin: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPeyJvXU68k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPeyJvXU68k)

**Week 6: March 23**
Technology and Jobs (Volti, Chapt 10)
Watch 14 minutes of *Modern Times*. It is mainly a comedy about the psychological effect of mechanization: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fw0KapQ3qw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fw0KapQ3qw)

**Week 7: March 30**
Technological Change and Life on the Job (Volti, Chapt 11)
Science, Society and Technology: How they affect each other.

Week 8: April 6
**Second Exam**
Scientific Knowledge and Technological Change (Volti, Chapt 4)

Week 10: April 13
Sources of Technological Change (Volti, Chapt 3)

SPRING BREAK

**Technologies in Modern Life and Cultures**
Week 11: April 27
Electronic Media (Volti, Chapt 13)
Group presentations.

Week 12: May 4
Medical and Biological Technology (Chapt 7)
Recommended: BBC documentary *Alternative Medicine: The Evidence* (this part is on acupuncture)
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRh0r0yRBq](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRh0r0yRBq)
Group presentations

Week 13: May 11
Genetic Technology (Volti, Chapt 8)
Required: Documentary on GM crops and food:
*Seeds of Death* [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUd9rRSLY4A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUd9rRSLY4A)
Group presentations

Week 14: May 18
Technology, Energy and the Environment (Volti, Chapt 6)
Recommended: The Truth About Climate Change Part I (BBC)
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a51mWYhVmek](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a51mWYhVmek)

Week 15: May 25
Review for **Final**


**Grades**
Participation and Conduct in the class: 10%
First Exam: 25%
Second Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 40%