Description: Plugs, Bugs and Power: Policy Issues for Communication Technologies

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
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Academic group: FOART
Academic org: FOA004
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 100700

STAFFING
Examiner: Julianne Stewart
Moderator: Karey Harrison

SYNOPSIS
Technological change has had major impacts upon the modes of transmission, processing and storage of information. This course explores the social and policy implications of developments in Australian (and international) telecommunications and broadcasting. Specific policy and technology themes and debates will be selected to illustrate the choices facing the information society. The course will also examine media discourses of communication technology.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. place new communication technologies in social, cultural, economic and political contexts;
2. understand the impact of new communication technologies on government policy and planning;
3. relate specific applications of information and communication technology to the range of policy institutions and actors;
4. engage critically with media discourses of communication and information technology.

TOPICS

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Introduction to Communication Technologies</td>
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<td>2. Concepts and Processes in Communication Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Economic and Commercial Contexts</td>
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<td>4. Social and Cultural Issues</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

, Incorporating Cultural Policy, (three-monthly journal)
'Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts' (Available: ).
'Australian Broadcasting Authority' (Available: ).
'Copyright Council of Australia' (Available: ).
, ABA Update,
, Communications Update,
, Prometheus, (twice yearly journal)
Green, M 2001, Websites & Copyright: A Practical Guide, Australian Copyright Council, Redfern, NSW.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<td>Private Study</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<td>ESSAY</td>
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<tr>
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NOTES
1. Exam dates will be advised when timetables have been finalised.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this external course. However, it is the student's responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval, then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each of the first FIVE working days late, after which a zero mark will be given.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course by: (i) satisfactorily completing the examination and assignments; and (ii) obtaining at least 50% of the total weighted marks for all summative assessment items.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6. Examination information:
   The exam for this course is a CLOSED EXAMINATION, and candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination.

7. Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Any deferred or supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.

8. University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL

ASSESSMENT NOTES

9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University’s Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (e) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).