

Social Justice & Design PUBP 6748/LMC 6748

Instructor: Robert Rosenberger

Time and Location: Wednesdays 1:05-3:55, Stephen C. Hall Building 005

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Course Description:

This advanced seminar has a theoretical and a practical focus. It first asks how theories of social justice can be understood and reformulated when seen from a science and technology studies (STS) point of view, a point of view that is informed by traditional critical theory and an emergent philosophy of design. Whereas critical theory mainly focuses on the material conditions of human existence, philosophy of design addresses the question how technologies materialize values and thereby shape the human condition. Whereas critical theory attempts to achieve social justice by changing the ways material goods are accumulated and distributed, philosophy of design is concerned with how technologies change the ways we act in the world with and through made things and how the design of technologies fosters or inhibits freedom, and empowers or represses people. The seminar explores how science and technology have been variously contested and enrolled in epistemological and material struggles for social justice, and the role that STS scholarship can or should play in those spheres.

Thus we will explore how issues of justice are designed into and emerge from the technologies of our world, from our personal computing devices, to the built environment, to industry, to our social institutions. This will require the participants to consider not only themes of design practice and user experience, but also the nature of justice, difference, materiality, and technological mediation. The readings are correspondingly varied, including abstract philosophical texts, concrete cases, and empirical studies.

To engender class discussion, students will write short entries on the readings ahead of each session so that we all come prepared with opinions. The main readings will be summarized through an in-class presentation and a student-led discussion. In addition, most main class readings will be supplemented with examples of concrete work and debate in relevant discussions from environmental justice, to disability studies, to feminist epistemology, to the critique of anti-homeless design.

Required Texts:

Two books are required reading for this course. They are available at both the campus bookstore and The Engineer's Bookstore.

Clayton, M., & Williams, A. (ed.) (2004). *Social Justice*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Peter-Paul Verbeek. (2011). *Moralizing Technology: Understanding and Designing the Morality of Things*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

We will also read a large number of articles that will be posted on t-square.

Assessment:

- Active participation in seminar discussion: 20%
- Blogs about the readings completed in advance of each session: 30%
- In-class presentation of reading material: 20%
Each student in the course will be assigned one course reading for which they will provide a summary and discussion questions for the class.
- A final paper/project, according to student interest and professor approval: 30%
Appropriate formats might include, but are not limited to: a research paper that applies theories from this class to dissertation research; a review essay about books in student's field in light of this class; a design project that engages and applies concepts from this class; a draft of a dissertation chapter, conference presentation, journal article, or some other professional publication.

This issue of plagiarism will not be taken lightly. Students should familiarize themselves with Georgia Tech's plagiarism policies at www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu
Work retrieved from books, articles, the internet, other students' writings, or any other source should not be passed off as one's own. I will not hesitate to refer plagiarizers to the Office of the Dean of Students.

PUBP 6748/LMC 6748 Reading Schedule

8/24: Introductions & Fire Hydrants

8/31: Actor-Network Theory

- Latour, B. (1992). "Where Are The Missing Masses? The Sociology of a Few Mundane Artifacts." In W. Bijker & J. Law (eds.), *Shaping Technology/Building Society*. London: MIT Press, pp. 226–258.
- Latour, B. (1999). "A Collective of Humans and Nonhumans." Chapter 6 of *Pandora's Hope: Essays on the Reality of Science Studies*. Cambridge: Harvard.

Anti-homeless Design:

- selection from Duneier, M. (1999). *Sidewalk*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Rosenberger, R. (2014). "How Cities Use Design to Drive the Homeless Away." *The Atlantic* online. 6.19.2014.

9/7: Politics

- Winner, L. (1986). "Do Artifacts Have Politics?" In: *The Whale and the Reactor*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp. 19-39.
- Latour, B. (2004). "Which Politics for Which Artifacts?" *Domus*. June, 04.
- Winner, L. (1993). "Upon Opening the Black Box and Finding it Empty: Social Constructivism and the Philosophy of Technology."
- Woodhouse, E., Hess, D., Breyman, S., & Martin, B. (2002). "Science Studies and Activism: Possibilities and Problems for Reconstructivist Agendas." *Social Studies of Science*, 32(2), 297-319.

Privately-Owned Public Spaces:

- Selection from Kayden, J. S., The New York City Department of City Planning, and The Municipal Art Society of New York. (2000). *Privately Owned Public Space*. New York: Wiley.
- Selection from Miller, K. F. (2007). *Designs on the Public*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

9/14: Cyborgs

- Haraway, D. J. (1991). "A Cyborg Manifesto. Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century." *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women*. New York: Routledge, pp. 149-181.
- Selections from Haraway, D. (2003). *The Companion Species Manifesto: Dogs, People, and Significant Otherness*. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press.

Algorithms:

- Anguin, J., J. Larson, S. Mattu, & L. Kirchner. (2016). "Machine Bias." ProPublica. 5/23/2016. <https://www.propublica.org/article/machine-bias-risk-assessments-in-criminal-sentencing>
- Bolukbasi, T. et al. (2016). "Man is to Computer Programmer as Women is to Homemaker? Debiasing Word Embeddings." <http://arxiv.org/abs/1607.06520>
- Garvie, C., and J. Frankle. (2016). "Facial-Recognition Software Might Have a Racial Bias Problem" *The Atlantic* online. 4/7/2016. <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2016/04/the-underlying-bias-of-facial-recognition-systems/476991/>

9/21: The Philosophy of Justice

- Rawls, J. (1999). "On Justice as Fairness." In *Social Justice*, M. Clayton & A. Williams (eds.), Blackwell, pp. 49-84.
- Nozick, R. (1974). "An Entitlement Theory." In *Social Justice*, M. Clayton & A. Williams (eds.), Blackwell, pp. 85-109.
- Cozzens, S. E. (2007). "Distributive Justice in Science and Technology Policy." *Science and Public Policy*, 34(2): 85-94.

9/28: The Philosophy of Justice continued

- Dworkin, R. (1981). "Equality of Resources." In *Social Justice*, M. Clayton & A. Williams (eds.), Blackwell, pp. 110-133.
- Cohen, G. A. (1989). "Against Equality of Resources: Relocating Dworkin's Cut." In *Social Justice*, M. Clayton & A. Williams (eds.), Blackwell, pp. 134-153.
- Anderson, E. S. "Against Luck Egalitarianism: What's the Point of Equality?" In *Social Justice*, M. Clayton & A. Williams (eds.), Blackwell, pp. 154-185.

Disability:

- Istvan, Z. (2015). "In the Transhumanist Age, We Should Be Repairing Disabilities, Not Sidewalks." *Motherboard*. 4/3/2015. <http://motherboard.vice.com/read/in-the-transhumanist-age-we-should-be-repairing-disabilities-not-sidewalks>
- Crippledscholar. (2015). "When Celebrating Accessible Technology is Just Reinforcing Ableism." <https://crippledscholar.wordpress.com/2015/07/04/when-celebrating-accessible-technology-is-just-reinforcing-ableism/>
- Eveleth, R. (2015). "The Exoskeleton's Hidden Burden." *The Atlantic* online. 8/7/2015. <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2015/08/exoskeletons-disability-assistive-technology/400667/>

10/5: Morality and Design

Verbeek, P.-P. (2011). Chapters 1-4 of *Moralizing Technology*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Body Cameras:

- Benforado, A. (2015). "The Hidden Bias of Cameras." *Slate*. 8/12/2015. http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2015/08/police_body_and_dashboard_cameras_how_camera_perspective_bias_can_limit.html
- Boyd, D., and A. Rosenblatt. (2015). "It's Not Too Late To Get Body Cameras Right." *The Atlantic* online. 5/15/2015. <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2015/05/its-not-too-late-to-get-body-cameras-right/393257/>

10/12: Morality and Design continued

Verbeek, P.-P. (2011). Chapters 5-8 of *Moralizing Technology*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

10/19: Standpoint Theory

- Harding, S. (1995). "“Strong Objectivity”: A Response to the New Objectivity Question.” *Synthese*. 104: 331-349.
- Collins, P. H. (1986). “Learning From the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought.” *Social Problems*. 33(6): S14-S32.
- Haraway, D. J. (1988). “Situated Knowledges - The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective.” *Feminist Studies*. 14(3): 575-599.

Gender and Design:

- Oudshoorn, N., E. Rommes, & M. Steinstra. (2004). “Configuring the User as Everybody: Gender and Design Cultures in Information and Communication Technologies.” *Science, Technology & Human Values*. 21(1): 30-63.
- Kennedy, P. (2016). “Could Women Be Trusted With Their Own Pregnancy Tests?” *New York Times*. 7/29/2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/31/opinion/sunday/could-women-be-trusted-with-their-own-pregnancy-tests.html?emc=eta1>

10/26: Critical Theory

- Feenberg, A. (1999). “The Limits of Technological Rationality.” Chapter 4 of Questioning Technology. London: Routledge, pp. 75-99.
- Feenberg, A. (2010). “Incommensurable Paradigms: Values and the Environment.” Chapter 2 of Between Reason and Experience. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 31-45.

Environmental Justice:

- Whyte, K. P. (forthcoming). “Is it Colonial Déjà Vu? Indigenous Peoples and Climate Injustice.” In: *Humanities for the Environment*, J. Adamson, M. Davis, & H. Huang (eds.). Earthscan Publications.
- JoJola, T. (2000). “Indigenous Planning and Community Development.” 7th IASTE Conf. The End of Tradition?, Trani, Italy, 2000

11/2: Course Project Proposals and Feedback

- Presentation on your proposed final essay or other project

11/9: Democracy and Design

- DiSalvo, C. (2012). “Design and Agonism,” and “Adversarial Design as Inquiry and Practice.” Chapters 1 and 5 of *Adversarial Design*. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 1-26, 113-125.
- Nieuwma, D. (2004). “Alternative Design Scholarship: Working Toward Appropriate Design.” *Design Issues*. 20(3): 13-24.
- Nussbaum, B. (2010). Is Humanitarian Design the New Imperialism. *Fast Company Design*, 2013. <http://www.fastcodesign.com/1661859/is-humanitariandesign-the-new-imperialism>

11/16: No Class

Wed 11/16: CLASS CANCELED

11/23: Thanksgiving holiday

Wed 11/23: THANKSGIVING

11/30: Class presentations

- Presentation of final essay or other project