

**PHIL 5960 Philosophy of Technology**  
**David M. Kaplan**

The philosophy of technology examines of the nature of technology as well as the effects and transformation of technologies upon human knowledge, activities, societies, and environments. The aim of philosophy of technology is to understand, evaluate, and criticize the ways in which technologies reflect as well as change human life, individually, socially, and politically. It also examines the transformations effected by technologies on the natural world and broader ecospheres. The assumption underlying the philosophy of technology is that devices and artifacts transform our experience in ways that are philosophically relevant. That is to say, technology not only extends our capacities and affects changes but it does so in ways that are interesting with respect to fundamental areas of philosophical inquiry. Technology poses unique problems of epistemology, metaphysics, moral philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of science, and environmental philosophy, to name just some of the topics in philosophy affected by technology. The task for a philosophy of technology is to analyze the nature of technology, its significance, and the ways that it mediates and transforms our experience.

**Texts**

David M. Kaplan      *Readings in the Philosophy of Technology* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004)  
Andrew Feenberg      *Questioning Technology* (Routledge, 1999)

**Course Requirements**

Your grade will be based on eight weekly, 500-700 word, response papers to the reading assignments, and one final research paper (15 page min., 30 page max). You must complete every assignment.

**Grading**

Final paper            75%  
Response papers      25%

**Reading Schedule**

Jan 20	Introduction
Jan 26	Heidegger, <i>Question Concerning Technology</i>
Feb 2	Borgmann, <i>Focal Things and Practices</i>
Feb 9	Winner, <i>Political Artifacts/Constructivism</i>
Feb 16	Feenberg, <i>Questioning Technology</i>
Feb 23	Feenberg, <i>Questioning Technology</i>
Mar 2	Latour, <i>Actor-Network Theory</i>
Mar 9	Jonas, McGuin, <i>Tribe: Ethics and Technology</i>
Mar 16	Spring Break
Mar 23	Verbeek, <i>Materializing Morality</i>
Mar 30	Tjsalling Swierstra topics TBA
Apr 6	Tjsalling Swierstra
Apr 13	Tjsalling Swierstra
Apr 20	Tjsalling Swierstra
Apr 27	Tjsalling Swierstra
May 4	conclusion