Georgia Tech Lorraine, European Campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology
Technology through the Ages (HTS 2084)
Course Syllabus

Instructor
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Course Description
Technologies have formed the basis of material culture and influenced the course of social change throughout human history. Yet technologies' influence on society has varied enormously over time and place. The course "Technology through the Ages" (listed as "HTS 2084: Technology and Society" in the course catalogue) combines the history of technology with world history, focusing primarily on Europe. Through a series of selective historical case studies – ax and tool production, Roman road and aqueduct construction, medieval cathedral building, bread making, and barbed wire – the course shows how technological practices ("engineering," broadly defined) differed in various prehistorical, ancient, medieval, and modern settings, throwing into relief the relationship of craft and industrial production to larger cultures and societies. Overall, the course seeks to show how the [relationship] between technology and culture has shifted in a definitive way in the modern age. The course takes advantage of students' stay in Europe through the choice of historical case studies and by assignments that require students to bring their field experience into the classroom.

Course Objectives
Students will accomplish the following objectives:

-   Develop a critical perspective on the changing relationship between technology, culture and society over major epochs of human history
-   Integrate their classroom study with their field experience while living in Europe
-   Develop more effective oral and written communication skills

Grading
Course assessment will be based on the following formula:

Tests (2)	30%
Group papers (2)	20%
Class participation	10%
Journal assignments (4)	5%
Final presentation	20%
Final exam	15%

Georgia Tech Lorraine is a serious academic program. Class attendance is required. Roll will be taken daily. If possible, please let me know in advance if you cannot attend class. Students may have two unexcused absences during the semester. Further unexcused absences will result in the loss of two percentage points on their final grade (2.0%) for each additional absence. Students are expected to pay attention in class and participate in discussions about readings. Please turn off electronics, including laptops and cell phones, during class. Class participation counts for a grade and includes punctuality, contribution to discussion and responsiveness to questions, use of electronics, and overall attentiveness. Students must participate in a round robin debate as either debate team members or judges; details will be discussed in class. The debate grade will be included in participation.

As part of the course, students must conduct one on-site visit to a technological object in an historic location, such as Roman remains, cathedrals, and concentration or death camps. You may also choose objects found in technology museums. During the last week of class, you will complete a short research presentation, describing the object in depth and analyzing its physical and historical context. Your choice of topics, as well as source lists, must be approved by the instructor by the dates on the class schedule. Failure to turn in presentation topics or source lists on time will result in the loss of points on the final project grade.

Students must complete two group written assignments, described in class. Students must also complete four individual journal assignments commenting on their experience of various technologies while in Europe. Assignments are due by Thursday at 6pm (Metz time) via T-Square. Please provide lined paper for tests and exams. The final exam will include the material since the midterm as well the main concepts covered in the course. To receive grades of excellence, students must demonstrate close understanding of course concepts and knowledge of relevant historical material covered in lectures, readings, and discussion. Final grading will be done on a letter basis and will be rounded up on the half percentage point (i.e. 89.5% = A). Final grades will not be available through Oscar until the Monday following the end of the exam period. Please do not ask to have grades changed.

Honor Policy
Students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech honor code. All infractions will be handled through the Office of the Dean of Students and treated with the utmost seriousness.

Reading Material
Required textbooks:

Reviel Netz, *Barbed Wire: An Ecology of Modernity* (Wesleyan University Press, 2004)

Recommended reading (copy in library):

Daniel Headrick, *Technology: A World History* (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Additional reading material will be made available on T-Square.

Course Schedule

Weeks 1-2	Introduction
Weeks 3-4	Prehistory
Weeks 5-6	Ancient history
Weeks 7-8	Medieval history
Week 9	Semester break
Weeks 10-11	Early modern history
Weeks 12-14	Modern history