Georgia Tech Lorraine, European Campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology  
Technology and Society (HSOC 2084)  
Summer 2016  
Course Syllabus

**Instructor**  
Dr. Timothy Stoneman  
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**Time and place**  
TBD

**Curriculum Requirements**  
HTS 2084 fulfills the social science and ethics requirements at Georgia Tech.

**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 combines the history of technology with world history, focusing primarily on Europe. Through a series of historical case studies – axe production, Roman road and aqueduct construction, medieval cathedral building, early modern breadmaking, the development of modern barbed wire, the contemporary fast food industry and global tourism – the course shows how technological practices (‘engineering’ broadly defined) differed during various historical periods, including the relationship between craft and industrial production and the larger society. Overall, the course seeks to show how the relationship between technology and culture shifted decisively by the twentieth century. The course seeks to takes advantage of students’ stay in Europe through the choice of case studies and by a project assignment that requires students to bring their field experience abroad into the classroom. It attempts to prompt reflection on the part of students about their place as travelers/tourists in a global consumer society.

**Course Objectives**  
Students will accomplish the following objectives:

- Students will describe relationships among languages, philosophies, cultures, literature, ethics, or the arts.*
- Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.*
- Students will develop a critical perspective on changes in the relationship between technology, culture and society over major periods of human history.
- Students will integrate aspects of their living experience while in Europe with their classroom study and develop self-awareness of their identity as travel consumers.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in the process of articulating and organizing rhetorical arguments in written, oral, visual, and nonverbal modes, using concrete support and conventional language.*
- Students will be able to judge factual claims and theories on the basis of evidence.*
- Students will develop effective oral and written communication skills.
Grading
Course assessment will be based on the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group papers (2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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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 three percentage points on the final grade (3.0%) 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. Students may post participation responses after class through Piazza on T-Square. Posts must be at least one paragraph in length and be posted by midnight on class day. Posts will count for 0.2% each on the following midterm or final exam (raw points). Students may not post more than ten responses per half semester; points will not carry over past mid-term.

Students must visit a technological site or object in an historic location in Europe, such as Roman remains, cathedrals, or concentration camps. You may also choose objects found in technology museums. During the last week of class, you will complete a short group presentation that combines your visit with academic research, analyzing in depth the physical and historical context of your object.

Exams will include both multiple-choice and short essay questions. The final exam will include the material since the midterm as well the main concepts covered in the course. Please provide lined paper for both exams.

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.