

SOCI 2700 – POWER & EVERYDAY LIFE

ASSIGNMENT # 3 – EVERYDAY TECHNOLOGIES

DUE JANUARY 11, 2008 (the first class of the winter term)

For the second half of the course, students will participate in new discussion & workshop groups. These groups will be formed in the first class of the winter term - January 11th. Attendance is mandatory.

The Assignment:

In social and cultural terms, technology refers to “a web of human practices and the products of those practices.” In other words, **technology includes all the techniques people use to manipulate materials into functional and useful forms, as well as the end products of these transformations.**

For this assignment, students are required to assess social practices, technological devices and cultural mythologies in terms of power and everyday life.

- 1. Each student must come prepared to give a brief (5-7 minutes) presentation to the members of their new group, and be prepared to answer questions.**
- 2. Each student must also prepare a 1-page handout to accompany their presentation.**

Please bring six (6) copies of your handout to class.

The required handout template is provided on the reverse side.

Evaluation:

Handout content (15 marks)

Please see handout template for mark breakdown.

Handout structure & style (2 marks)

Format – followed the mandatory template; Clarity – used clear and concise language;

Presentation style (3 marks – YOU assign this mark!)

Support – used notes effectively and did not read the presentation; Voice & body language – spoke slowly and clearly, maintained eye contact; Discussion – willing and able to answer questions and lead discussion.

20 marks – 10%

Student Name
Student #
Date

Assignment # 3 — Everyday Technologies

How is technology part of people's everyday lives? (3 points)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How is technology used to shape power relations? (3 points)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which technology do you think has had the most positive socio-political impact in human history, and why? (3 points)

I think that 1. _____ *has, because*

- 2.
- 3.

Which technology do you think has had the most negative socio-political impact in human history, and why? (3 points)

I think that 1. _____ *has, because*

- 2.
- 3.

Which technological device do you most value, and what are some of the 'mythologies' of everyday life it evokes? (3 points)

I most value 1. _____ , *which evokes cultural 'myths' about*

- 2.
- 3.