

SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORY: PRE-HISTORIC AGE TO INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Objective

Technology helps in explaining not only human beings' gradual ascendancy over other living beings and the environment, but also the nature of societies that have evolved during their existence on this planet. As every aspect of technology cannot be accounted for, the course will focus broadly on those important aspects of human creations which have had more visible and tangible consequences on the physical reality.

Course Content

Concepts and issues in the history of technology; How technology differentiates human beings from other animals; Technology as a medium between man and environment; How technology determines human culture.

- A. Stone Age cultures** - Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. Evolution of tools and implements; Domestication of plants and animals and the emergence of early societies – pastoral and agricultural.
- B. Metal Age cultures** – Copper, Bronze and Iron. Pastoral and nomadic societies; Convergence of nomadic and sedentary societies; Settlements and technological changes; Emergence of states; Conflict, Warfare and Slavery.
- C. Development of non-animal power:** wind, steam, fossil fuel. The transition to industrial society and its consequences.

Essential Readings

- Cohen, H. Floris, *The Scientific Revolution: A Historiographical Enquiry*, University of Chicago Press, 1994.
- Durant, Will, *Our Oriental Heritage*, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1963.
- Hawkes, Jacquetta, *History of Mankind: Cultural and Scientific Development*, George Allen & Unwin, London, 1965.
- McClellan, James E & Harold Don, *Science and Technology in World History*, JHU Press, Baltimore, 2006.
- Mumford, Lewis, *The Myth of the Machine*, Secker & Warburg, London, 1967.
- Ronan, Colin, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the World's Science*, Cambridge, 1983.
- Serres, Michel (ed), *A History of Scientific Thought*, Blackwell Publishers, London, 1995.
- Singer, Charles, *A History of Technology, 5 vols.* Oxford, 1975.
- Stavrianos, L.S., *A Global History*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 1975.
- The Cambridge History of Science*, Volume 4, CUP, 2003.

Additional Readings

- Bronowski, J., *The Ascent of Man*, Princeton, 1973.
- Childe, V. Gordon, *What Happened in History*, Penguin, reprint 1978.
- Leslie, A., *Evolution of Culture to the Fall of Rome*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1959.
- Metraux, Guy S. & Crouzet, Francois, *The Evolution of Science*, New Jersey, 1963.
- Postman, Neil, *Technopoly*, Vintage Books, New York, 1993.
- Spangenburg, Ray & Moser, Diane K., *The History of Science in the 19th Century*, University Press, Hyderabad, 1999.
- White, Lynn, *Medieval Technology and Social Change*, Oxford, 1962.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY, SHILLONG
 Timetable for Open Course : 2nd Semesters, 2009.

Day	9.30 -10.30	10.45-11.45	12.00-1.00	1.00-2.00	2.00-3.00	3.00-4.00
Mon	OPEN - 2nd Sem. HIS-C-O-213: Society, Technology and History: Prehistoric Age to Industrial Revolution (The Faculty - Coordinator: Dr. V.R. Rengsi) Compulsory - 4th Sem. H-108: Modern Indian Society (SNL)	Core – 4th Sem. Ancient H-204: Archaeology Methods and Approaches (CAM) Modern H-404: Colonialism, Communalism and Secularism (MS / MSNR)	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised
Tues	-do-	-do-	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised
Wed	-do-	-do-	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised
Thur	-do-	-do-	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised
Fri			To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised	To be finalised