

## Redeeming Technology

### Reading list

#### General reading

To engage with some of the major topics and thinkers in the field, participants should read at least two of the following books over the course of the year:

- Stephen Monsma (1986)  
[Responsible Technology: A Christian Perspective](#)
- Neil Postman (1993)  
[Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology](#)
- Carl Mitcham (1994)  
[Thinking through Technology: The Path between Engineering and Philosophy](#)
- Jeffrey P. Greenman, Read M. Schuchardt, Noah J. Toly (2013)  
[Understanding Jacques Ellul](#)
- Jeffrey M Shaw (2014)  
[Illusions of Freedom: Thomas Merton & Jacques Ellul on Technology and Human Condition.](#)

In addition, each talk will have its own set reading (see below).

A number of these specific readings will be taken from

- Robert C Scharff and Val Dusek (Eds.) (2014)  
[Philosophy of Technology: The Technological Condition: An Anthology](#)

It is recommended that course participants get hold of a copy of this book.

## **Session 1: Redeeming Technology: An Introduction**

**Talk 1.1:** Can *stuff* be morally good? – Mike BROWNNUTT

Reading 1: “Do Artifacts Have Politics?” Langdon Winner  
Article #55 in Scharff and Dusek.

**Talk 1.2:** Overview: Beyond a Utilitarian View of Technology – LEUNG Wing Tai

Reading 1: “From Tools to Technocracy” Neil Postman (1992)  
in *Technopoly* (pp. 21-39).

Reading 2: “Tool Users vs. Homo Sapiens and the Megamachine” Lewis Mumford  
Article #32 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 3: “A Moratorium on Cyborgs: computation, cognition, and commerce”  
Evan Selinger and Timothy Engström  
Article #52 in Scharff and Dusek.

## Session 2: Redeeming Technology in Principle and Practice

### Talk 2.1      **Searching for Christian Values that could Redeem Technological Systems: Complications, Challenges, Confirmations – Lauren PFISTER**

Reading 1:      “Toward a Philosophy of Technology” Hans Jonas.  
                         Article #20 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 2:      “Tool-Users vs. Homo-Sapiens and the Megamachine” Lewis Mumford.  
                         Article #32 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 3:      *What I Believe* (1989) Jacques Ellul  
                         Specifically, about “Environment” (pp. 99-103)  
                         and about “The Technological Environment” (pp. 133-140).

*Optional further reading:*

- “Ellul’s Corpus: A Brief Overview of His Writing” in Andrew Goddard (2002) *Living the Word, Resisting the World: The Life and Thought of Jacques Ellul* (pp. 51-57).
- “La Technique and Beyond” in Andrew Goddard (2002) *Living the Word, Resisting the World: The Life and Thought of Jacques Ellul* (pp. 134-151).

### Talk 2.2      **Technology and Human Nature: Is it ethical to use technology to enhance our bodies and minds? Should we change our fundamental human nature? – John WYATT**

Reading 1:      “In Defense of Posthuman Dignity” Nick Bostrom.  
                         Article #43 in Scharff and Dusek.

*Optional further reading:*

- *Reading Technology and Justice* (1987) George Grant.
- *Transhumanism and Transcendence: Christian hope in an age of technological enhancement* (2011) Ronald Cole-Turner (Ed).
- *Resurrection and Moral Order* (1994) Oliver O'Donovan.

## **Session 4: Redeeming Business, Propaganda and Advertising Technology**

### **Talk 3.1      The Business of Artificial Intelligence – Keith CHAN**

Reading 1:      “The Business of Artificial Intelligence: What it can or cannot do for your organization,” E. Brynjolfsson and A. McAfee (2017) *Harvard Business Review*, July. Available [here](#).

Reading 2:      “Is AI a Threat to Christianity?” J. Merritt (2017) *The Atlantic*, February 3<sup>rd</sup> Available [here](#).

### **Talk 3.2      When Fact is Fictional and Truth is Fiction – Melba MAGGAY**

Reading 1:      “The Social Construction of Facts and Artifacts” Trevor Pinch & Wiebe Bijker.  
Article #24 in Scharff and Dusek

Reading 2:      “The ‘Autonomy’ of the Technological Phenomenon” Jacques Ellul.  
Article #36 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 3:      “Tool-Users vs. Homo-Sapiens and the Megamachine” Lewis Mumford.  
Article #32 in Scharff and Dusek.

## Session 4: Redeeming Personal and Communication Technology

### Talk 4.1      **The Role of Personal Technology in Modern Communications** – Ah Chung TSOI

Reading 1:      “Actor-Network Theory (ANT)” Bruno Latour.  
                    Article #25 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 2:      “Actor-Network Theory: Critical Considerations” Sergio Sismondo.  
                    Article #26 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 3:      “Consciousness in Human and Robot Minds” Daniel C. Dennett.  
                    Article #49 in Scharff and Dusek.

Optional further reading:

- “Experimentation and Scientific Realism” Ian Hacking.  
                    Article #11 in Scharff and Dusek.
- “Analytic Philosophy of Technology” Maarten Franssen.  
                    Article #18 in Scharff and Dusek.
- “The Mind Bleeds Into the World: A Conversation with David Chalmers”  
                    *Edge*. Available [here](#).
- “The Virtual and the Real” David Chalmers.  
                    *Disputatio* (forthcoming). Available [here](#).
- “A Standard Model for the Mind: Toward a Common Computational  
                    Framework across Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, and  
                    Robotics” J. E. Laird, C. Lebiere, and P. S. Rosenbloom.  
                    *AI Magazine*, **38** (2017) 13. Available [here](#).
- *Being No One*, T. Metzinger  
                    MIT Press, Cambridge: MA. 2003.
- *The Ego Tunnel: the science of the mind and the myth of the self*, T. Metzinger  
                    Basic Books, New York: NY. 2010.
- “Intentionality as a mark of the mental” T. Crane  
                    In *Contemporary Issues in the Philosophy of Mind*, Anthony O’Hear  
                    (Ed.). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 1998.
- *Superintelligence. Paths, Dangers, Strategies*, N. Bostrom  
                    Oxford University Press, Oxford. 2014.

**Talk 4.2 Christianity and Technology: The Uneasy Connection – Bob FORTNER**

Reading 1: “Conflicting Visions of Technology” Mary Tiles and Hans Oberdiek.  
Article #22 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 2: “Philosophy of Technology at the Crossroads: Critique of Heidegger and Borgmann” Andrew Feenberg.  
Article #31 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 3: “Media, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Human-Computer Interfaces: Implications for Human Flourishing” Robert S. Fortner (2017) 12th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Hiroshima.  
[Available here.](#)

## Session 5: Redeeming Educational and Religious Technology

### Talk 5.1 Education Technology and Faith: Opportunities and Challenges – Irwin KING

Reading 1: “Anonymity versus Commitment: The Dangers of Education on the Internet”  
Hubert L. Dreyfus.  
Article #53 in Scharff and Dusek.

### Talk 5.2 Technology, Religiosity and the Changing Face of Humanity – YAM Chi Keung

Reading 1: “A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century” Donna Haraway.  
Article #51 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 2: “The Social Impact of Technological Change” Emmanuel G. Mesthene.  
Article #56 in Scharff and Dusek.

Reading 3: “Three Ways of Being-With Technology” Carl Mitcham.  
Article #45 in Scharff and Dusek.

#### Optional further reading:

- “Thinking about Melville, Religion, and Machines that Think”  
John Lardas Modern in *Deus in Machina: Religion, Technology, and the Things in Between*, Jeremy Stolow (Ed.) (2012). New York, NY: Fordham University Press (pp. 183-211).

Or

- “Deus in Machina Movet: Religion in the Age of Technological Reproducibility”  
John Lardas, *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*, **18** (2006) 1-36.