

HON 301

Future Studies: Science, Engineering, Medicine & Society

Instructor: Tony Scarlatos

Time: MW 11:00 - 12:20

Location: CS 2205

Office Hours: Held online via Google Meet
By appointment only
Friday 10:00 - 11:30 am

Email: future@cs.stonybrook.edu

Home Page: <http://www3.cs.stonybrook.edu/~tony/future>

Course Description

An examination of the mutual relations among science, technology, medicine, and society: how the sciences and various technologies affect society and, at the same time, are affected by it. This examination is conducted through the perspectives of disciplines outside the sciences - such as history, philosophy, sociology, and economics--in combination with the natural sciences, applied sciences, clinical medicine, and engineering.

Course Objectives

L2: Engage Global Issues

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interconnectedness of the world, past and present.

L3: Understand Relationships between Technology and the Arts, or between Science and Society

2. Synthesize quantitative and/or technical information and qualitative information to make informed judgments about the reciprocal relationship between Technology and the Arts, or between Science and Society.

L4: Practice and Respect Critical and Ethical Reasoning

1. Demonstrate an ability to distinguish among the ethical principles guiding human behavior.
2. Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of situations and human experience.
3. Understand and differentiate ethical, legal, social justice, and political issues.

L5: Evaluate and Synthesize Researched Information

1. Locate information from a variety of sources to locate, organize, and analyze information.
2. Analyze the accuracy of information and the credibility of sources.
3. Determine the relevance of information and use it ethically and responsibly.

L6: Write Effectively within One's Discipline

Collect the most pertinent research, draw appropriate disciplinary inferences, organize effectively for one's intended audience, and write grammatically appropriate English.

Course Delivery Mode and Structure

Some class meetings may be conducted via Zoom **but the class is primarily in-person**. See the [Zoom for Students](https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/zoom/students) page (<https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/zoom/students>) for more information on how to download and use this application.

Course-related questions should be posted to the course email account, future@cs.stonybrook.edu. You should always use your SBU gmail account for coursework and correspondence. Only for urgent personal/private issues should you email me directly (at anthony.scarlatos@stonybrook.edu). **Please allow between 24-48 hours for an email reply.** All instructor correspondence will be sent to your SBU email account. **Plan on checking your SBU email account and Brightspace daily for course-related messages.** To log in to Stony Brook Google Mail, go to <http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud> and sign in with your NetID and password.

We will also be using **Class Question**. If you already have a Class Question account, skip to step 2. If you are new to it, start at step 1.

1. Go to classquestion.com/students and click "Click here to register". This link will allow you to register for the site.
2. Once you have registered, go to classquestion.com/students and sign in.
3. Click "Add Class" at the bottom. Enter the Class Code for this class - VLXRB - and then click "Add Class".
4. Your class will be added to the dropdown menu at the top. You can now click the "Sign In" button to log into your class!
5. You will need to bring an internet-connected device to each class lecture.

Office hours will be conducted using Google Calendar and Google Meet. In order to manage requests for office hours I have instituted the following system. To make an appointment, go to the link below:

<https://calendar.app.google/3yYsqg98qs8NhBvL7>

Choose a time slot (15 minutes each), at least 24 hours before you wish to meet with me. The system will send me an email notification and the meeting will be added to your Google Calendar as an event. The system generates a Google Meet link.

Required Materials

There is no textbook for this class. All readings may be found in the Resources section of the class web site at <http://www3.cs.stonybrook.edu/~tony/future/301resources.htm>

Technical Assistance

DoIT provides technical assistance to all students. If you require assistance with hardware or using any supported applications, available support options include:

Visit one of DoIT's [Tech Stations](#)

Access [self-help materials](#)

Submit a ticket online at service.stonybrook.edu

[Chat live](#) with a student consultant

Call 631-632-9800 for assistance (2-9800 from on campus)

If you need assistance with Brightspace, you can access resources from the Brightspace Resources link on Stony Brook Brightspace homepage (<https://brightspace.stonybrook.edu>) or contact the SUNY helpdesk via phone/ticket/live chat at: <https://online.suny.edu/help/>

Need a laptop? You can borrow a laptop from the Melville Library SINC Site. Details can be found at: <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/student-laptop-loaner-program>

Advisories

Student Accessibility Support Center: If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, Stony Brook Union Suite 107, (631) 632-6748, or at sasc@stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Have a problem that's impacting your attendance or performance in this class? Contact the **Student Support Team** at <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/student-support/about/index.php> right away! Do not wait until late in the semester to try to resolve any problems you may be having.

Academic Integrity: Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Professions, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

Critical Incident Management: Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

Course Evaluation: Each semester Stony Brook University asks students to provide feedback on their courses and instructors through an online course evaluation system. The course evaluation results are used by the individual faculty, department chairs and deans to help the faculty enhance their teaching skills and are used as part of the personnel decision for faculty promotion and tenure. No individually identifiable data are ever reported back to the university or instructor. Students who have completed previous evaluations can view all faculty ratings at: <https://classie-evals.stonybrook.edu/>

Schedule

Assignments are due 1 week after they are assigned, unless otherwise noted. Please note that this schedule is approximate, and subject to change.

Date	Topic	Assignment Due

Week 1	Class Orientation	HW1
Week 2	Future Studies	HW2
Week 3	Forecasting	HW3
Week 4	How We Got to Now	
Week 5	Guns, Germs, and Steel	Research Report 1
Week 6	Human Kind	HW4
Week 7	Where We Are	HW5
Week 8	The Story of Stuff	HW6
Week 9	The Spirit Level	
Week 10	Paradigm Shift	Research Report 2
Week 11	The Singularity	HW7
Week 12	The Third Wave	HW8
Week 13	What Technology Wants	
Week 14	Student presentations	Final Project

Grading

Homework - Eight assignments that explore innovation, culture, and the environment. Throughout the semester students will be presented with readings, videos, and other materials that examine technology and society from a variety of viewpoints. Student responses will be collected on a linked Google form. (40 points)

[Technology research report](#) - A research paper that establishes the technology foundation for the final project. (10 points).

[Social Trend research report](#) - A research paper that establishes the societal foundation for the final project. (10 points).

[Final project](#) - In the final project students will explore the implications of the adoption of the technology on society, the economy, the environment, etc. (20 points)

Class questions - 1 point for each correctly answered question out of 30 questions total (20 points)

All assignments are announced on Brightspace (generally a week prior to the due date) and emailed to students.

Scale:

93 - 100+	A
90 - 92	A-
87 - 89	B+

83 - 86	B
80 - 82	B-
77 - 79	C+
73 - 76	C
70 - 72	C-
65 - 69	D+
60 - 64	D
Below 60	F

All due dates are at 11:59 pm on the date given. Homework is due within 24 hours of the due date to receive credit. Project assignment submissions later than 24 hours past the due date will have 1 point per day deducted, and no projects will receive credit after 5 days from the due date. Projects with content that is offensive or defamatory will have points deducted, or may get no credit at all. Plagiarized work will receive no credit, and may be reported to the academic judiciary.

A grade of "I" (incomplete) for the semester is rarely given.

No assignments will be accepted after midnight on the last day of classes for the semester.