



Sociology (SOCI) 460

The Sociology of Information Technology (Revision 4)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode: [Individualized study online](#) . Delivered via Brightspace.

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites: None

Precluded: None

Challenge: SOCI 460 is not available for challenge.

Faculty: [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

Sociology 460 is a three-credit, senior-level university course that is designed to encourage critical thinking vis-à-vis information technology. This course is designed to increase your understanding of technology, information technology, and the impact technology has on your life and our world.

Outline

- Unit 1: Introduction
- Unit 2: Theories of Information Technology
- Unit 3: Information Technology and Work
- Unit 4: Surveillance, the Panopticon, Facebook, Social Media, and the Mercers
- Unit 5: The Deepening Divide
- Unit 6: The Religion of Technology
- Unit 7: Conclusion

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for this course you must complete each assignment, obtain a grade of at least 50 percent on the final assignment and an overall course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** . The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Unit 2 Assignment	10%
Unit 3 Assignment	10%
Unit 4 Assignment	10%
Unit 5 Assignment	10%
Unit 6 Assignment	10%

Activity	Weight
Unit 7 Assignment	10%
Quizlet Exam	10%
Final Assignment	30%
Total	100%

Materials

Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

van Dijk, J. A. G. M. (2005). *The deepening divide: Inequality in the information society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Noble, D. F. (1999). *The religion of technology: The divinity of man and the spirit of invention*. New York: Penguin.

Physical course materials

The following course materials are included in a course package that will be shipped to your home prior to your course's start date:

Clark, A. C. (1990/1953). *Childhood's end*. New York: Del Rey.

Webster, F. (2014). *Theories of the information society* (4th ed.). London and New York: Routledge.

Other material

All other course materials will be accessed online.

Important links

› [Questions about our Program](#) 

- > [Academic advising](#) 
- > [Program planning](#) 
- > [Request assistance](#) 
- > [Support services at AU](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery modes may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 4, March 13, 2024

Updated March 9, 2026

View [previous revision](#) 
