

Technology and Culture (EDU 327)

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Yasira Waqar

Schedule: Monday to Friday (10.15 AM – 12.15 PM)

This course examines the relationship between technology, culture and society, with a particular emphasis on new and emerging media. In the first part of the course, we will explore popular and theoretical discourses around technology, paying particular attention to how technology shapes and is shaped by societies, economies and civic life. In the second part of the course, we will focus more closely on new media, examining the digital mediation of our social lives and its effects on individuality, identity, communication, relationships and social belonging. Finally, we will adopt a more global perspective and explore the transformation of cultural production, activism and entrepreneurialism in the digital age, including the political, ethical and economic ramifications of these socio-cultural shifts. Course readings will include sources both popular and academic, theoretical and empirical, contemporary and non-contemporary, optimistic and skeptical, thus representing a wide variety of perspectives regarding the relationship between technology and culture.