

COURSE SYLLABUS

Technopolitics of Sustainability, 15 credits

Technopolitics of Sustainability, 15 högskolepoäng

Course Code: L2TOSI	Education Cycle: Second-cycle level
Confirmed: May 29, 2026	Disciplinary domain: Social sciences
Valid From: Aug 31, 2026	Subject group: Media and Communication Studies
	Specialised in: A1N Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
	Main field of study: Media and Communication Science

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- explain the relation between communication technologies and sustainability
- identify political, social, historical, and economic aspects of the relation between communication technologies and sustainability in contemporary social phenomena
- describe the meanings and conceptual genealogy of the term technopolitics

Skills and Abilities

- summarise contemporary social phenomena that exemplify the relations between communication technologies and sustainability
- develop independent analyses of contemporary social phenomena from a technopolitical perspective
- reflect about the relation between the development and adoption of communication technologies and the emergence of sustainability challenges
- apply a technopolitical conceptual outlook to analyse current sustainability challenges

Judgement and Approach

- critically reflect about political, social, historical and economic challenges that arise with the inception of communication technologies
- problematise the adoption and appropriation of communication technologies to address sustainability challenges
- synthesise the main areas of intersection between communication technologies, politics, and sustainability

Content

- Medium theory
- Media history perspectives
- Political economy of media and communication
- Introduction to technopolitics
- Communication technologies, power, and inequality
- Communication technologies and gender issues
- Communication technologies and democracy
- Communication technologies and the environment
- AI, sustainability and data justice
- Decolonial perspectives on technology

Type of Instruction

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and exercises performed individually and in groups.

A learning management system is used.

Students who have been admitted to and registered for a course have the right to receive instruction/supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course instance to which they were accepted. After that, the right to receive instruction/supervision expires.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

The applicant must hold the minimum of a bachelor's degree (ie. the equivalent of 180 ECTS credits at an accredited university). Proof of English proficiency is required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The examination is based on the intended learning outcomes.

The grades A, B, C, D and E are all passing grades. For courses with more than one element of examination, students are given a final grade based on an overall assessment of all the elements included in the course. The final grade of the course is issued only when all elements of examination have been passed.

The forms of examination are individual written assignments and seminars.

The examination must allow for students to be assessed on an individual basis. Further information concerning assessment of specific intended learning outcomes and grading criteria is provided at the beginning of the course.

To receive the final grade, students must receive a passing grade (A-E) in the two individual written assignments and participate in seminars. The final grade is the average grade of the two written assignments

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written assignment 1	5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Individual written assignment 2	5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Seminar	5 credits	G/U

Course Evaluation

The instruction is followed up throughout the course. A course evaluation is conducted at the end of the course. A summary and comments are published in the learning management system. The evaluation constitutes a basis for future improvements to the course.

Other Information

Students are guaranteed a minimum of three attempts to pass an examination, including the regular attempt.

If a student has failed the same examination three times, the student can request that the next attempt be graded by a new examiner. The decision to accept or reject such a request is made by the associate dean of education. A student may not make a second attempt at any examination already passed in order to receive a higher grade.

In case a course is terminated or significantly altered, examination according to the earlier syllabus shall be offered on at least two occasions in the course of one year after the termination/alteration.

The examiner has the right to give an adapted examination or let the student carry out the examination in an alternative way provided that the intended learning outcomes can be secured and that there are exceptional reasons for this, including the student's right to targeted study support.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

- Buolamwini, Joy (2024). *Unmasking AI: My mission to protect what is human in a world of machines*. Random House. 336 p.
- Calzati, Stefania (2021). Decolonising "data colonialism" propositions for investigating the realpolitik of today's networked ecology. *Television & New Media*, 22(8) (pp. 914-929) <https://doi.org/10.1177/1527476420957267>. 15 p.
- Couldry, Nick, & Mejias, Ulysses A. (2023). The decolonial turn in data and technology research: What is at stake and where is it heading?. *Information, Communication & Society*, 26(4) (pp. 786-802) <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2021.1986102>. 15 p.
- Crawford, Kate (2021). *The Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence*. Yale University Press. 288 p.
- Gutierrez, M., & Milan, S. (2017). Technopolitics in the age of big data. *Networks, Movements & Technopolitics in Latin America: Critical Analysis and Current Challenges.*, edited by F. Sierra Caballero and Tommaso Gravante, Palgrave Macmillan, (pp. 95-109) 15 p.
- Jeppesen, Sandra (2021). *Transformative Media: Intersectional Technopolitics from Indymedia to #BlackLivesMatter*. UBC Press. Selected chapters. 312 p.
- López, Antonio, Ivakhiv, Adrian, Rust, Stephen, Tola, Miriam, Chang, Alenda Y. & Chu, Kiu-way (2024). *The Routledge handbook of ecomedia studies*. Taylor & Francis. Selected chapters. 397 p.
- Kellner, Douglas (2021). *Technology and democracy: Toward a critical theory of digital technologies, technopolitics, and technocapitalism*. Springer Nature. Selected chapters. 305 p.
- Klein, Naomi (2024). *Doppelgänger: A trip into the mirror world*. Random House. 416 p.
- Kurban, Can, Peña-López, Ismael, & Haberer, Maria (2017). What is technopolitics? A conceptual schema for understanding politics in the digital age. *IDP. Revista de Internet, Derecho y Política*, (24). (pp. 3-20) 17 p.
- Madianou, Mirca (2024). *Technocolonialism: When Technology for Good is Harmful*. John Wiley & Sons. 256 p.
- Nemer, David (2022). *Technology of the Oppressed: inequity and the digital mundane in favelas of Brazil*. MIT Press. 230 p.
- Noble, Safiya U. (2018). Algorithms of oppression: How search engines reinforce racism. In *Algorithms of oppression*. New York university press. 248 p.
- Ricarte, Paola (2022). "Ethics for the majority world: AI and the question of violence at scale." *Media, Culture & Society* 44, no. 4. (pp. 726-745) <https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437221099612>. 20 p.
- Ricarte, Paola (2024). The digitalization imperative. *Dialogues on Digital Society*, 1(1) (pp. 12-17) <https://doi.org/10.1177/29768640241262263>. 6 p.
- Treré, Emiliano & Barranquero Carretero, Alejandro (2017). Tracing the roots of technopolitics: towards a North-South dialogue. In *Networks, movements and technopolitics in Latin America: Critical analysis and current challenges*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, (pp. 43-63). 20 p.

Citing Sources – How to Create Literature References

<https://ju.se/library/academic-language/reference-management.html>

Sourcewise: A Student's Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism

Information about plagiarism at higher education institutions

Available in the learning management system