Optional Ph.D. Emphasis in Technology and Society

Students pursuing a Ph.D. in the following programs may apply to add an Emphasis in Technology and Society: Anthropology, Communication, Computer Science, Education, English, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, Film and Media Studies, Geography, History, Media Arts and Technology, Political Science, Psychological and Brain Sciences, and Sociology. The Emphasis brings together doctoral students in engineering, science, social science, and the humanities to engage in multidisciplinary coursework and research into the cultural and societal changes resulting from the use of information technologies. The Emphasis features a structured set of courses that may be taught individually and collaboratively by faculty across disciplines in the participating departments.

To be eligible for admission to the Emphasis, students must be enrolled and in good standing in their home department. Applications for adding the Emphasis can be made at any time in a student’s graduate career, but typically will be made after at least one successful year of study in the home department. Work completed prior to admission that meets Emphasis requirements (as determined by the Technology and Society Ph.D. Emphasis Faculty Executive Committee) may be counted towards its completion.

Requirements for completing the optional Emphasis in Technology and Society include:

- **Gateway Technology and Society Colloquium**: Students must complete a 1-unit colloquium that brings together students and faculty from multiple disciplines to explore various approaches to studying information technology and society. In addition to helping students understand similarities and differences in conceptualization and knowledge production across disciplines, the seminar promotes interaction among students from different departments.

- **Graduate Coursework**: Students must complete four 4-unit courses with a grade of B or better, two each from Area 1 (Culture and History) and Area 2 (Society and Behavior). Area 1 courses explore the humanistic study of cultures, histories, and meanings as they intersect with technology. Area 2 investigates the social scientific study of technology in relationship to human behavior, organizations, and social structures. One course from the student’s home department may be applied toward meeting this requirement. Students can petition to substitute a non-listed course, subject to approval by the Technology and Society Faculty Executive Committee.

- **Dissertation**: A student’s dissertation must have relevance to at least one of the two Emphasis areas. In addition, the student’s dissertation committee must include a member from another department participating in the Emphasis. Exceptions are subject to approval by the Technology and Society Faculty Executive Committee.

For additional information and a current list of courses, please contact the Technology & Society PhD Emphasis Director or visit http://cits.ucsb.edu/education.