

**DSE-02A : Discipline Specific Elective - 2
Technology and Human Interaction**

**B.A. (Hons.) Humanities & Social Sciences - Semester IV
Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi**

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course						
Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution			Eligibility Criteria	Pre-requisite
		L	T	P		
Technology and Human Interaction (UPC: 3123102007)	4	1	0	3	Class XII Pass	Students must be familiar with the concepts (or related concepts) taught under Technology & Society (DSC-02)
<i>L = Lecture; T = Tutorial; P = Practical/Practice; UPC = Unique Paper Code</i>						

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives of this course are as follows:

- To make the student learn the intersection between technological development and social progress.
- To equip students with appropriate tools and techniques to solve social problems through technological interventions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course,

- students will be skilled at drawing connections between technological development and social progress.
- students will be skilled at using suitable tools to solve social problems through technological interventions.

Outline of DSE-02A

The ubiquity of technical tools around us has forced humanity to think about the implications of this ever-evolving interaction. The sheer scale and speed of technological development in the last century is unprecedented and therefore, it has become more important than ever before to study and analyse human-technology interface. This is an intervention-based module and therefore the students will be guided to bring out technological solutions to social problems. Students will explore the possibilities of using traditional skills and techniques as well as modern technology for helping the problem-solving process especially in slums and rural areas. The scope of this paper would also include engaging with issues arising out of the application of Artificial Intelligence for social good. Students will be encouraged to involve various stakeholders, the concerning agencies and other communities pursuing similar goals.

Theoretical Component (15 hours)

- Overview of technology and human interaction
- Actor-Network Theory
- Technology and social change
- Techno-ethics
- Affordances and Constraints

Indicative Themes

- Impact of technology on various aspects of human interactions
- Ethical implications of technology

- Digital well-being
- Human-Centred Design

Practical component (90 hours)

Depending on the theme chosen by the group of students the practical component of this paper may entail learning through practical exercises like identifying relevant fields/cases, learning to analyse them objectively in the sociological context, interviews with experts and end users of technology, observations, group discussions with stakeholders, designing public awareness campaigns with regard to human interaction with technology, conducting digital literacy campaigns, participating in and conducting workshops, etc., or any other practical deemed fit by the teacher in the context of Technology and Human Interaction. Fieldwork is a practical component integral to this paper. Other compulsory practical components include:

- Basics of Computers
- Internet and website designing
- Virtual Worlds (like SecondLife or MineCraft)
- Designing an interview schedule
- Administering Surveys
- Conducting interviews
- Ingesting, processing and analysing data

Readings

1. Latour, B. (2005). *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor–Network-Theory*. Oxford University Press.
2. Ihde, D. (1990). *Technology and the Lifeworld: From Garden to Earth*. Indiana University Press.
3. Feenberg, A. (2017). *Technosystem: The Social Life of Reason*. Harvard University Press.
4. Verbeek, P.-P. (2011). *Moralizing Technology: Understanding and Designing the Morality of Things*. University of Chicago Press.
5. Hutchby, I. (2001). “Technologies, Texts and Affordances.” *Sociology*, 35(2), 441–456.
6. Winston, B. (1998). *Media Technology and Society: A History from the Telegraph to the Internet*. Routledge.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.
