ECE 94R "Exploring Technology and the Search for Sustainability" - Term Paper

Outline Due: Thursday, May 8, 2008 at beginning of class (3:30 pm)
Final Paper Due: May 27, 2008, 11:59 pm PDT, via email to inscites@cnsi.ucsb.edu

The term paper must be at least 1,200 - 1,600 words of 12 point, double-spaced written text (around 4-6 pages). We will accept papers formatted in Word (.doc or .rtf files) or as PDFs.

Explore the interplay of science, technology, history, and the societal content in one of the following topic choices:

1. What are the factors that lead toward the success or failure of a given technology? Use at least one example from Ecotopia and one example from the three major technologies discussed in class (i.e. LED lighting, solar, or electric vehicles). Discuss the role of factors such as the technology’s technical merits, marketing, media, and public perception in determining whether or not a technology is adopted in Ecotopian society and U.S. society. Are the factors that determine the success of a technology the same in both societies? Discuss the similarities and differences.

2. In the novel Ecotopia, we learn about the Ecotopian society and its efforts towards sustainability through the eyes of U.S. reporter. Imagine that you are an Ecotopian reporter who is sent to the current day United States to report on this nation’s efforts in sustainable technologies. Choose a technology currently in use or under development in the U.S., and give the Ecotopian perspective on this technology. Include the Ecotopian observations and interpretations of the science behind the technology, the “greenness” of the technology, and the societal impact of and reaction to that technology. These observations must be based on your sources and include references.

3. We know the utility and function of technology in our everyday lives, but consider how technological choices influence or shape society at a macro level. Choose one large scale social structure (such as the political structure, the economy, transportation, housing, utilities, etc.), and compare and contrast how technology choices made by Ecotopian society and the modern U.S. society have affected the organization of this social structure. For example, consider the transportation technologies used in Ecotopia and the U.S. and discuss the resulting relationship of these choices with the transportation structure and society as a whole.

Guidelines

It is expected that each student follows the UCSB Policy on Academic Honesty (for more information see http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/Regulations/). Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and violation of UCSB’s Academic Honesty Policy will result in serious consequences. Anyone found guilty of plagiarism will automatically be excluded from the course and be reported to the Offices of the Dean of Students where further disciplinary action may be taken.

For any of the topics suggested, you will be expected to integrate some of the concepts and ideas discussed in class. This is both a research and perspective paper. You are expected to utilize AT LEAST 2 high quality academic sources to support your arguments or provide factual evidence supporting the development of your themes. At least one of these resources must be from a source other than the course reader. You must supplement these academic sources with AT LEAST 2 other references such as news articles, opinion pieces, blog entries, or web sites. Academic sources are defined as articles published in peer-reviewed publications (such as re-
search journals or conference proceedings) or books. Academic sources may be accessed on the Internet, but their citation must be through the publication in which they first appeared. If you are unsure of the quality of one of your sources, check with one of the instructors.

Timeline

**Thursday, May 8 at 3:30 pm: Outline Due**

A well-formed thesis statement and a detailed outline of your paper are due in class. The outline must also include your two academic references as well as your two additional references.

**May 12 - May 16: Outline Discussion**

You must pick up your outline and discuss it with one of the instructors during this week. You will sign up for a meeting time when you turn in the outline.

**Tuesday, May 27 11:59 pm: Final Paper Due**

Email your paper (in .doc, .rtf, or .pdf format) to inscites@cnsi.ucsb.edu.

Grading Criteria

We have identified a list of guidelines that we will use to evaluate your paper. Use these to help guide you in the writing process.

1. **Outline (10 points)**
   - _/5_: Outline fully addresses one of the topics.
   - _/5_: References fully cited.

1. **Paper (90 points)**
   - Concepts (65 points)
     - _/10_: Topic clearly defined (Clear thesis statement and scope).
     - _/45_: Topic adequately addressed.
     - Thesis adequately developed and defended.
     - Paper clearly shows the interrelationships and causalities of the intersection of science, technology, and society using concepts from the class, the readings, class discussion, outside research and personal analysis.
   - _/10_: References are of reasonable quality and relevance.

   - Mechanics (25 points)
     - _/15_: Spelling, grammar, and formatting.
     - _/10_: Bibliography is in an accepted format. Sources are correctly cited throughout the paper.

Additional things that we will look for in evaluating your paper:

• Do you incorporate research material, course material, personal examples and quoted material in support of the main points?

• Are the “other” sources reputable and suitable for a college-level paper?

Bibliography and Citations

You are required to use the citation and bibliography format from the Chicago Manual of Style. See this five page handout by Paul R. Spickard, Professor of History, UCSB, for information on the format and examples of the most commonly cited sources (including how to cite sources on the Internet).