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## CO1094 Computers and Society

**Credits:** 20    **Convenor:** Dr. E. Law    **Semester:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

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**Prerequisites:** none

**Assessment:** Coursework: 50%

Three Hour Examination in May/June:  
50%

**Lectures:** 40 hours

**Problem Classes:** 10 hours  
**Private Study:** 100 hours

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### Subject Knowledge

**Aims** The aim of this module is to explain the notion of an Information Society and the impact and effects on society as a whole.

**Learning Outcomes** Students should be able to describe the Information Society and Information Revolution; explain the effect that computers and IT have had employment in general and both individuals' jobs and corporate organisations; examine the impact of the computer revolution on the conditions of work and life in contemporary society such as the usage of social networking sites; explain the issues of access to computers such as privacy and security, the inequality that can arise, and the impacts on society; describe the issues surrounding information access rights; examine human-computer interaction issues and their impacts on different IT-enhanced sectors such as healthcare, education, electronic commerce and environment; be able to outline a brief history of digital computing.

**Methods** Class sessions together with course notes, recommended textbooks, worksheets, additional hand-outs and web support.

**Assessment** Marked coursework, class test, traditional written examination.

### Skills

**Aims** To teach students scientific writing and critical thinking.

**Learning Outcomes** Students will be able to: write short, clear, note based summaries of general knowledge and present ideas orally.

**Methods** Class sessions together with discussions.

**Assessment** Marked essays on specific topics, in-class presentation, a class test, traditional written examination.

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**Explanation of Prerequisites** While there are no formal essential prerequisites, students should already have a basic knowledge of computing, the use of computers in society, and ideally some appreciation of coding.

**Course Description** The module examines the historical development of computing technologies, the impact of the computer revolution on the conditions on work and life in contemporary society. It discusses ethical, legal, and professional issues in computer uses. It also analyses relevant theoretical frameworks to understand the dynamic and dialectical interactions between humans and technologies. Critical thinking is essential to reflect deeply on the ever-evolving human-technology relationships.

### Detailed Syllabus

- Topic 1: History of Digital Computing
- Topic 2: Social Change and Technology
- Topic 3: Open Source Movement
- Topic 4: Computer-mediated Social Networks

Topic 5: Digital Identity

Topic 6: Human-computer Interaction: Usability and User Experience

Topic 7: Computers and Education

Topic 8: Privacy and Security

Topic 9: Digital Dilemma

**Resources** Web page, study guide, worksheets, handouts, lecture rooms.

**Module Evaluation** Course questionnaires, course review.