TEC 154 2014S, Class 40: Wrapup

Overview

- Preliminaries.
  - Admin.
  - Questions.
- About the final.
- Work since break.
- The subject matter of this course.
- End-of-course evaluation.

Preliminaries

Admin

- No note takers today (other than Sam)
- Distributed: Sample final examination
- I haven't seen any followup to my comments on your papers or edits.
  - In many cases, you are expected to do another edit and to make sure to Cc me on that edit.
- I will accept late questions on readings until Friday of finals week.
  - Partial credit.
- The schedule has been rearranged slightly. It looks like we'll have two presentations on Friday. So, we're doing the wrapup class today.
- A few groups have asked to have until next Monday for their papers. I don't like having an exam and a paper due the same week, but I've said yes. Do any other groups want the Monday option?

Questions

Plans for Wednesday and Friday

- Wednesday

  - Audio
  - Airport security
  - In-car tech

- Friday

  - Digital photography
  - Voting machines

○ Plus: A bit of final review

The Format of the Final

- 20 short-answer questions. similar to the questions on the first part of the mid-semester examination.
- Four categories: Student projects, Post-break technologies, A new reading, and "Miscellaneous".
- You may bring one double-sided sheet to the examination. Can be hand-written or computer generated or both.
- If you want to type your answers on a computer, you may do so. I will provide an electornic version of the exam on a memory stick.

What We've Done Since Break

- Technologies
    ○ Biotechnology (Robertson)
    ○ Patents, IP, and Innovation (Graham)
    ○ Bioprospecting and Biopiracy (Roper)
    ○ Futuring, Revisited and Hypertext (Rebelsky)
    ○ Paper (Trimmer and Running)
    ○ Theatre (Thomas)
    ○ Social Media (Yoose)
- Student-presented Technologies
- Readings
    ○ A host of technology-specific readings (I'll generally look for big themes, rather than precise details)
    ○ *Launching the Innovation Renaissance*
    ○ "As We May Think"
- Developed a few new perspectives
    ○ More considerations of social implications (Roper, Yoose, Robertson)
        - For the individual
        - For different cultures
    ○ We need to think beyond the Western perspective [Sam notes that he'll find a way to ask a question about this on the final, if just "What did Tyler suggest in class 40?"]
    ○ Technology is not just there, it is *owned* by people, which means that they can limit its use
    ○ The interaction between technology and its audience, particularly in the arts
    ○ What are the incentives to innovate. (A challenge to Petroski's "Engineering is a natural human endeavor.")
    ○ Incentives are potentially biased (e.g., to large companies).
       "All incentives are political"
    ○ Even something as apparantly simple as theatre has evolved significantly and uses a lot of technology.
        - A lot of technology is behind the scenes. [Hmm ... another potential question.]
    ○ Where does responsiblity lie when a technology fails (and it will), or causes adverse effects for others?

○ What is lost when a new technology takes over? E.g., when we give up on traditional papermaking or traditional biologies.
○ Disconnect from nature that seems to happen as technologies advance.

The Subject Matter of the Course

I think of this course as having three main subject matters

Individual technologies - *To talk about technology, you need to have thought about and understood particular technologies*

Lenses - *We need to know more than how a technology works, we need to consider its effect and milieu*

- Too many to list
- I hope that after you leave this course, whenever you encounter a new technology, you ask yourself some of the questions these lenses reveal.

General - *I expect that every Grinnell course should help to enhance your learning and thinking skills*

- Identifying key points in readings
- Synthesis - Applying an idea from one context to another
- The power of collaboration
- Whether you like it or not, being able to think on your feet is an important skill

End of Course Evaluation

- Fill it out.
- A volunteer will turn it in to the Science Division Office.