

HPSC20010 Intimacy and Technology

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	2 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2010, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, Parkville - Taught on campus. Standard
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: One 1-hour lecture and a 90-minute tutorial per week Total Time Commitment: An average of 8.5 hours each week.
Prerequisites:	Usually 75 points of first year study across any discipline area.
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	There is no specific background knowledge required for this subject.
Non Allowed Subjects:	This subject was previously taught at 3rd year level under the code 672-328. Students who have completed 672-328 are not permitted to enrol in this subject.
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website : http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Coordinator:	Dr Michael Arnold
Contact:	<u>Dr Michael Arnold (http://www.pasi.unimelb.edu.au/hps/staff/arnold/)</u> <u>mvarnold@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:mvarnold@unimelb.edu.au)</u>
Subject Overview:	Intimate Technologies are those that we use to understand ourselves, and that we use to establish and maintain our relations with others. The subject approaches technologies of intimacy through a wide variety of examples and case studies - technologies of modesty and privacy (underwear and bedrooms), technologies of surveillance (CAT scans and bar-codes), communications technologies (love letters and SMS), reproductive technologies (IVF and sheep-gut), technologies that mediate personal identity (the data-body and flesh-fashion), and that mediate social and community relations (swarms and networks). The unifying themes that run through these examples approach technologies of intimacy in terms of their propensity to abstract, attenuate, individuate and discipline our intimate relations, and students are invited to critically assess this argument. In so doing, students will gain a fresh and critical understanding of the ways in which technologies and our lives are intertwined.
Objectives:	A student who has successfully completed this subject will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # understand and critically interpret the major theoretical and philosophical approaches that inform our knowledge of sociotechnical relations. # demonstrate a critical appreciation of the implications of particular sociotechnologies for self, and for human relations. # identify, interpret and recount sociotechnical case studies relevant to intimate relations.
Assessment:	A 2500-word essay 50% (due at the end of semester), a 1000-word essay 30% (due in week 4) and a 500-word seminar presentation 20% (due during the semester). A hurdle requirement of attendance at eight tutorials is applicable.
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available from the bookshop at the start of semester

