Science, Technology, and Society (GE 301)

Term Project

In the term project, you will explore a technological development, issue, or controversy using what you have learned in the course.

You will be able to propose the subject, which will be subject to approval by the instructor. You must work individually, groups are not allowed. Try to choose something that you have genuine interest in. It can be a contemporary issue, or a controversy that happened in the past. It can even be something that you think will come up in the future, although that will be more challenging. Whatever you propose, there must be at least two alternative viewpoints on the matter that are substantially in opposition. In your report, you will expose two of the alternative viewpoints, demonstrating that you have truly understood their position and justifications, without downplaying them or being dismissive. Exposition of each viewpoint should be a full section.

You should use at least one level of section heading, and probably that will be sufficient, although you are allowed to have subsections if you need to. The first section should be "Introduction" and the last one "Conclusion".

The introduction should contain general background and motivation in a way that engages the reader. It should enable the reader to understand what the development, issue, or controversy is by offering a well-defined statement of it, and very briefly state the alternative positions. It should end with a *thesis statement*, which is your position that you will argue for in the sixth section.

The second section, whose title you can choose freely, should give more detailed historical background and general context.

The third and fourth sections should be the exposition of two alternative viewpoints on the matter. You must demonstrate that you have truly understood their position and justifications, without downplaying them or being dismissive.

The fifth section should be an objective evaluation of the viewpoints where you try to evaluate the legitimacy and convincingness of the viewpoints in an objective matter. You are expected to use evidence from multiple sources, also accounting for the quality of each piece of evidence.

In the sixth section, you should discuss your own opinions and position on the matter. Here you are entitled to your own views, voice, thoughts and feelings but you must still try to be as convincing as you can. You cannot just say "I feel/believe so" but must rather rely on evidence and convincing arguments. Regarding the fifth and sixth sections, you will have to carefully sift out what is objective fact and what is subjective opinion. Your opinions will not affect your grade but how clearly and convincingly you argue will.

Finally the seventh section, your conclusion, should contain an overall summary, but also thoughfully wrap things up and tie in to your thesis statement.

The length should be between 1000 and 1200 words, excluding the title, front matter, and reference list, but including the introduction and conclusion and all sections in between, as well as all section headings, and figure and table captions. State your word count in the front matter (with better than 5% accuracy). You may lose points for not meeting the word limit.

Notice that the word limit is actually quite small for what you are expected to accomplish. This means each of your seven main sections will probably be one, two, or at most three paragraphs in length, although there is no rule about this. You will have to be very economical and concise in using your words.

You may use images, graphs, tables to support your exposition or arguments. If they are taken from elsewhere, please be sure you cite the source properly *in the caption*, by including the source in the reference list and including the reference number in paranthesis in the caption. Also be sure you are not violating anyones rights by including this content. Include captions in the word count, but not the text of tables.

Do not use footnotes in the text.

The project must draw on a variety of sources, at least six in number. Of these, at least four must be academic or journalistic sources, and at least two must be academic sources. The rest may include web sources, personal interviews, and so forth. "Drawing on" means actually using the source, not just citing it.

An academic source normally means a scholarly book, book chapter, scientific journal article, scientific conference proceedings, or similar that is written by researchers in universities, industry, or the government. You may access

the academic source either in print or off the internet. It will count as an academic source as long as it fits this description. A journalistic source normally means either a book, or a newspaper, magazine, or blog article, or similar that is written by journalists or writers. You may access the journalistic source either in print or off the internet. It will count as a journalistic source as long as it fits this description. The distinction between academic and journalistic is sometimes blurred, and mostly has to do with the degree of rigor.

It is not appropriate to use Wikipedia or generic encyclopedias such as Encyclopaedia Britannica as a source; however these may be used as a research tool in the early stages of project development. This means that if you want to use information from these, you must also find the same information in another source and cite that source. The same goes for any book listed under "Textbooks" in the syllabus and any compulsory reading material of the course.

Listing the sources at the end of your work is not sufficient. You must use in-text citations to refer to that work wherever you are benefiting, using, or mentioning those ideas or if you are making a quotation. Use numbers to refer to your list of references. You may either make the numbers superscripts as "According to Baker[3] we know that . . . " or enclose them in square paranthesis as "According to Baker [3] we know that . . . " The references should be listed either in order of citation or alphabetically by last name of first authors. As to formatting your bibliography, any style is acceptable as long as it is consistent and complete (is uniform and gives sufficient detail).

Your report must be prepared using a document preparation system (commercial or open-source office programs, LaTeX, etc.) and converted and submitted as a single pdf file (no scanned documents). Please use standard font types and font sizes not far from default, sufficient margins, and single spacing.

The name of the file should include your 8 digit student number preceded by your name with capitalizations as follows: AlacaDenizCan81102099.pdf, assuming you last name is "Alaca" and your name is "Deniz Can".

You will be graded in three stages:

1. Initial proposal (3% out of 30%). Describe the subject in 2–4 sentences. Then clearly state the opposing positions each with one sentence. Following this, tell in 2–4 sentence why this matters: What is at stake? What do we have to gain or lose and how will the choices we make affect that? Total word count should be 100–120 words. If your subject is not approved you will be given a reason, and you will be given a new deadline to come up with something new. If your proposal is too similar to another earlier submitted one, that can also be a reason for us to ask you to change it.
2. Source identification (3% out of 30%). Find at least six sources meeting the requirements spelled out above. You may use additional sources later or even change the sources you submit, but submitting the sources you will actually use at this stage has the benefit of receiving feedback as to whether they are considered acceptable without losing points. You are asked to identify at least one source with each of the opposing positions and note this.
3. Final report (24% out of 30%). In contrast to the first two stages, this stage will be turned in after the FZ deadline. See the rubric at the end.

You will be provided the e-mail address to which to send all items to. You must send them from your Bilkent e-mail address by the announced deadlines before 17:00 hours. You will get an e-mail receipt. If you do not get the receipt by 18:00, re-send by forwarding your original message including the header.

See the following for information about academic honesty, plagiarism, and citation and bibliography styles:

http://ascu.bilkent.edu.tr/Academic_Honesty.pdf
http://kilyos.ee.bilkent.edu.tr/~ge301/writingguide.pdf

Rubric for Term Project (numbers in parantheses are points out of 30):

1. Initial proposal (3).
2. Source identification (3).
3. Provides sufficient historical background and general context in addition to a clear introduction to the subject displaying understanding of the subject and its ethical, social and/or cultural dimensions (4).
4. Identifies and exposes two alternative viewpoints, demonstrating true understanding and insight into these positions and their justifications (4).
5. Demonstrates objective evaluation of the opposing viewpoints, with clear separation of fact and opinion (4).
6. Displays intellectual engagement in a convincing personal viewpoint developed on the subject (4).
7. Able to produce high quality writing both in terms of structure and mechanics, including a well-balanced conclusion (4).
8. Meaningfully benefited from appropriate sources, and cited and listed them in an acceptable manner (4).