

COMPUTERS AND SOCIETY

The effect of scientific and technological change on social and economic organization. Historical examples. Comparison, with these examples of the computer and its effect. Consideration of possible uses of computer systems, social change which they would influence, and the choices they present. Problems raised by the speed with which information technology is being developed and utilized. Effect of information technology on economic institutions; labor problems and the values involved; consequences for political organization and effects on democracy; possible use and misuse of information machines by government and police; effects on education; new life patterns made possible. Legal issues associated with computers.

The course will be taught with a historical perspective, considering the advent of technology leading up to the present, followed by projections for the future. A major theme of the course will be the need for the scientist to be aware, at all times, of the various ethical, legal, economic, social, and political implications of technological advance. The course will be conducted in a discussion format, with a minimal amount of lecturing. It is designed not only for computer scientists, but for everyone who wants to know something about this subject.

Prerequisites: Junior standing. No mathematical or programming background necessary.

Texts: (all paperbacks)	ASBELL:	The New Improved American The Triple Revolution
	BOWEN:	Automation and Economic Progress
	GALBRAITH:	The New Industrial State
	LILLEY:	Men, Machines, and History
	PHILIPSON (ed.):	Automation: Implications for the Future
	ROSENBERG:	Automation, Manpower, and Education
	VONNEGUT:	Player Piano

Instructor: A. Wasserman (Office: 1210 W. Dayton St., Rm. 3145,  
Phone: 262-5879)

Time: 12:30 MTWRF (this may be changed)

Place: B113 Van Vleck