

(UN)COMMON READ: 50 WORLD SHAPING THINGS

IDH 2930, Class Number: 26269

Course Information

Class Period: Thursday | Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM)

Location: Zoom Registration: <https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEucivjrjgrHdKjkfq5DPHCnrP-9I920rjM>

Term: Fall 2020

Instructor Information

Vern Rogers

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352.846.4847

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

Discussion oriented courses centered around a single book.

Course Objectives

TV Dinners, the pill, robots, the S-bend, and the iPhone are just some of the inventions that have impacted the world's economy in unexpected ways. This course will focus on the discoveries, surprises, and ramifications of some coolest and seemingly most boring inventions over time. In this course you will...

- Learn about and discuss how a variety of inventions have had unexpected impacts on society.
- Consider more recent inventions or ideas and predict the potential impact.
- Create a podcast episode centered around an invention not in the text.

Required Textbook

Title: Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy

Author: Tim Harford

Publication Date: July 6, 2017

ISBN-13: 978-0735216136

Course Schedule

| Date | Chapters | Assignment Due |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>September 3</i> | 1-4 | None |
| <i>September 10</i> | 5-8 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>September 17</i> | 9-12 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>September 24</i> | 13-16 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>October 1</i> | 17-20 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>October 8</i> | 21-24 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>October 15</i> | 25-28 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>October 22</i> | 29-32 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>October 29</i> | 33-36 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>November 5</i> | 37-40 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>November 12</i> | 41-44 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>November 19</i> | 45-48 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>November 26</i> | Thanksgiving | None |
| <i>December 3</i> | 49 & 50 | Canvas Discussion |
| <i>December 10</i> | Final Project | Project Due |

Canvas Discussion Guidelines

Your Posts

Your posts in the Canvas discussion board should be well thought out and reference the text or other outside sources to support your thoughts. Each post should be at least one sophisticated paragraph with 4-6 sentences. Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar are required.

Your Responses

Comprise replies with original, supported ideas or thought-provoking questions. Debate is encouraged, but civility is mandatory. You should reply to at least 2 of your classmates' posts each week.

Final Project

Create your own 50 Things Podcast episode. Research and identify an invention that you believe had a significant impact on the modern economy. Create a 4-5 minute podcast episode taking inspiration from Tim Harford's podcast (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04b1g3c/episodes/downloads>).

Use this article to guide your process: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/19/learning/lesson-plans/project-audio-teaching-students-how-to-produce-their-own-podcasts.html>.

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

This course is primarily in-person and experiential. In-person class discussions cannot be “made-up.” Attendance is mandatory, and you must provide a doctor’s note or similar document for unexcused absences.

Evaluation of Grades

| Assignment | Total Points | Percentage of Final Grade |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Attendance | 25 | 25% |
| In Class Participation | 26 | 25% |
| Canvas Discussion | 24 | 25% |
| Final Project | 25 | 25% |

Grading Policy

| Percent | Grade | Grade Points |
|--------------|-------|--------------|
| 90.0 - 100.0 | A | 4.00 |
| 87.0 - 89.9 | A- | 3.67 |
| 84.0 - 86.9 | B+ | 3.33 |
| 81.0 – 83.9 | B | 3.00 |
| 78.0 - 80.9 | B- | 2.67 |
| 75.0 - 79.9 | C+ | 2.33 |
| 72.0 – 74.9 | C | 2.00 |
| 69.0 - 71.9 | C- | 1.67 |
| 66.0 - 68.9 | D+ | 1.33 |
| 63.0 - 65.9 | D | 1.00 |
| 60.0 - 62.9 | D- | 0.67 |
| 0 - 59.9 | E | 0.00 |

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS):** Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- **University Police Department:** 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

- **E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
- **Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.
- **Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- **Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.
- **Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.
- **Student Complaints Campus**: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.
- **On-Line Students Complaints**: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.