

ENGG 1150
Spring 2024-25
Information Technology Revolution: Past, Present and Future
[IT Revolution] (3 units)

Course Description

This course introduces the basic concepts in information technology and explores the many applications of information technology in our daily life from consumer electronics to internet to various sectors including medicine, business, and social networking, etc. Key technology breakthroughs throughout the development of information technology and its impact to various aspects of our society will be studied. These include the invention of the 1st transistor, concept of computing machine, representation of information in digital formats, miniaturization via Very-Large-Scale Integration (VLSI) technology, computer systems and software, electronic communications from telephony and mobile phones over the telecom network to email, instant messaging and video skype over the internet, protection of information, and emerging applications including social networking, big data, and autonomous and intelligent systems. The focus is to identify the key technological advances in Information Technology and understand how these advances led to revolutionary changes in our life and society.

Course Objectives

- To understand the major breakthroughs in the development of Information Technology in the past 100 years including theory, devices, software and systems, their significance and impacts in both the technology development and the social implications.
- To trace the historical journey of the development and to understand how they shaped various sectors in the society.
- To allow students to expand using their creativity in imagining how IT will continue to develop and what changes it may have in our future.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students taken this course are expected to be able to

1. Identify the key advances in information technology and related enabler in various technology.
2. Describe how advances in information technology are applied to different fields and the revolutionary changes they brought to those fields.
3. Evaluate the key benefits and potential drawback or issues underlying these changes.
4. Recognize the future trend in information technology development and possible benefits and issues associated with these development trends.

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Grading

Post-Lecture Online Quizzes	14%	(Best 7 out of 8 quizzes from Lecture 2 to Lecture 9)
In-lecture Participation & Quizzes	4%	
Topical Studies		
• Group Presentation	10%	
• Individual Topic Study	32%	
Exam	40%	(Date: TBC)

Late Submissions

A deduction of up to 10% from the assignment grade will be taken for each day that the assignment is late (weekends are also counted). Assignments submitted later than 5 days after the due date will receive a zero mark.

Outline of Topics

- Dawn of a Revolution
- The Transistor and Power of 0 and 1
- Claude Shannon and Information Theory
- The Silicon Revolution
- Five Generations of Computing
- Wired and Wireless Communications
- The Internet and World Wide Web
- Information Security
- Computing Problems and Algorithmic
- Emerging Trends in IT
- Entrepreneurship

Recommended Text

Hey, T., Pápay G. (2015). The computing universe: a journey through a revolution. New York, USA: Cambridge University Press. (Available at HKUST Library e-resources: [Access via Books24x7](#))