



Spring 2026

37: 575: 313 New Technology and Work

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School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University

Course Description

Over the semester, we will examine major technological developments such as artificial intelligence, automation and robotics, autonomous driving, the Internet of Things, virtual reality, blockchain, digital labor platforms, and algorithmic management and analyze how they are reshaping jobs, workplaces, and labor relations. We will also engage with broader questions about globalization, the gig economy, worker surveillance, education and skills, and new forms of collective action and worker voice. Throughout the course, we will pay close attention not only to the technical side of innovation, but also to its human, historical, social, and ethical implications.

This course is remote, asynchronous, and self-paced.

This course is listed as "remote" and "by arrangement" (asynchronously). Here is Rutgers University's explanation on **asynchronous**

courses: (<https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/remote-instruction> (Links to an external site.)).

- *For courses listed as “by arrangement”, there are no scheduled class sessions. These courses will have a regular schedule of work and assignments due throughout each week, but they will not require you to be online at a particular time. Rather, your instructor will provide materials, for example, readings, video content, presentations, lectures, assignments, and exams—and you can access these materials and satisfy the course requirements within time frames specified by the instructor.*

One of the key advantages of remote, asynchronous course is inclusion and flexibility. Students can learn and complete assignments anytime and anywhere they want, including in any time zone. This is particularly great for adult learners juggling conflicting course meeting times and work schedules. Moreover, asynchronous courses can help increase cognitive engagement, because students will have more time to engage with and explore the course materials.

For those who are interested in the advantages of synchronous and asynchronous courses, here is a broader discussion: <https://sasoue.rutgers.edu/docman-docs/curriculum/941-musings-on-asynchronous-and-synchronous-remote-instruction-draft-june-2020/file> (Links to an external site.)

How to begin this course:

- If this is your first time using Canvas, go through the Student Orientation, a self-paced tutorial that will explain how to use Canvas. The overview lasts 6 minutes. <https://community.canvaslms.com/videos/1124> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)
- Notice the list on the left. This gives you quick access to various elements of the course.
- Go to the **Syllabus** and review what is in it.
- Start with **Modules** each week.
- If the video won't load, please switch to Chrome or Firefox as a browser.

Accessibility

Have you ever found content in your course that was difficult to read, or you wish came in a different format?

I seek to continuously improve the accessibility of the course content. A useful software tool that I use in this course is ALLY, which automatically provides students with a range of more accessible alternative formats (including PDF, HTML, Audio, and Translated version).

I hope that you will find these efforts improve your learning in this course. See https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Student for more information. **For example, maybe you have a lot of course material to read and get eye strain, or maybe you're an auditory learner. Listen to an audio format of the learning materials instead.**

Need technical assistance?

Helpdesk: Rutgers Office of InNeed technical assistance? <https://it.rutgers.edu/help-support>; (Links to an external site.)

or call : 833-OIT-HELP

Unit 1: Course Overview

[Required Video: Kochan & Mindell Discussion on Industrial Revolutions and Work](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required Video: Kochan & Mindell Discussion on Industrial Revolutions and Work.

[Required Reading: Technology, Jobs, and the Future of Work](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required Reading: Technology, Jobs, and the Future of Work.

[Optional: Glossary of automation technologies and techniques](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional: Glossary of automation technologies and techniques.

- Discussion Topic

[Academic Integrity Contract - read, sign, submit \(mandatory\)](#)

Jan 20

10 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Academic Integrity Contract - read, sign, submit (mandatory).

- Discussion Topic

[Bonus forum: Meet your learning community](#)

Jan 20

Published. Click to unpublish Bonus forum: Meet your learning community.

- Discussion Topic

[Weekly forum 1 : Will ChatGPT Take Your Job?](#)

Jan 25

Published. Click to unpublish Unit 2 Tech focus assignment: Autonomous driving.

[Optional Reading 1: Wajcman, J., 2010. Feminist theories of technology](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional Reading 1: Wajcman, J., 2010. Feminist theories of technology.

[Optional Reading 2: Hankerson et al. 2016. Does technology have race?](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional Reading 2: Hankerson et al. 2016. Does technology have race?.

[Unit 1 Review](#)

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Unit 3: Technology and Future of Work / Tech focus- Automation & Robotics

Technology and Future of Work / Tech focus- Automation & Robotics

[Required Reading: A future that works.](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required Reading: A future that works..

[Required Reading: Davenport, T.H. and Kirby, J., 2015. Beyond automation.](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required Reading: Davenport, T.H. and Kirby, J., 2015. Beyond automation..

[Required video: The digital future of work \(20-min video\)](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required video: The digital future of work (20-min video).

- Discussion Topic

[Weekly forum 3 : Robots in the Workforce: The Case of Amazon Robotics](#)

Feb 8

10 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Weekly forum 3 : Robots in the Workforce: The Case of Amazon Robotics.

Unit 10 Algorithmic Management

Algorithmic Management

[Required Reading 1: Mateescu & Nguyen. 2019. Algorithmic Management in the Workplace](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required Reading 1: Mateescu & Nguyen. 2019. Algorithmic Management in the Workplace.

[Required reading 2: Rosenblat, A., 2018. When your boss is an algorithm. New York Times.](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required reading 2: Rosenblat, A., 2018. When your boss is an algorithm. New York Times..

[Required video: Inside Amazon: The Rugeley warehouse](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required video: Inside Amazon: The Rugeley warehouse .

- Discussion Topic

[Weekly forum 10: On Amazon's Time](#)

Apr 12

10 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Weekly forum 10: On Amazon's Time.

[Optional reading: Cappelli, P., 2020. Stop Overengineering People Management. Harvard Business Review.](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional reading: Cappelli, P., 2020. Stop Overengineering People Management. Harvard Business Review..

[Optional video: Alex Rosenblat \(37 minutes, highly recommended\)](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional video: Alex Rosenblat (37 minutes, highly recommended).

- Context Module Sub Header

No tech focus assignment this week. Instead, start to work on your final essay.

Published. Click to unpublish Weekly forum 11 : Finland's Universal Income Experiment.

[Optional Video: Prof. Paul Oyer, "The Gig Economy: Threats and Opportunities for Workers and Employers"](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional Video: Prof. Paul Oyer, "The Gig Economy: Threats and Opportunities for Workers and Employers".

- Context Module Sub Header

No tech focus assignment this week. Instead, start to work on your final essay.

Published. Click to unpublish No tech focus assignment this week. Instead, start to work on your final essay..

[Unit 10 Review](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Unit 10 Review.

- Assignment

[Extra Credit Video Critique](#)

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Unit 12 Re-imagining Worker Voice and Collective Activism (1)

Re-imagining Worker Voice and Collective Activism (1)

[Required Reading 1: What is worker voice and why it is so important](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required Reading 1: What is worker voice and why it is so important .

[Required Reading 2: Hundreds of Google Employees Unionize, Culminating Years of Activism](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required Reading 2: Hundreds of Google Employees Unionize, Culminating Years of Activism.

[Required Video 1: Why Google's union is a big deal \(8-min video\)](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required Video 1: Why Google's union is a big deal (8-min video).

[Required Video 2 : How A.I. took center stage in the Hollywood writers' strike](#)

[Required reading 1: Union Organizing in Amazon warehouses](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required reading 1: Union Organizing in Amazon warehouses.

[Required reading 2: More Starbucks stores want to unionize. These workers are leading the push.](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required reading 2: More Starbucks stores want to unionize. These workers are leading the push..

[Required video 1: Why Amazon's First U.S. Union Faces Tough Road Ahead \(25 minutes\)](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required video 1: Why Amazon's First U.S. Union Faces Tough Road Ahead (25 minutes).

[Required video 2: Workers Are About To Get Way More Power. Here's How. \(9 minutes\)](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Required video 2: Workers Are About To Get Way More Power. Here's How. (9 minutes).

[Optional reading 1: How Amazon Is Resisting Unions in Two Upcoming Elections](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional reading 1: How Amazon Is Resisting Unions in Two Upcoming Elections .

[Optional reading 2: Here's How We Beat Amazon](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional reading 2: Here's How We Beat Amazon.

[Optional learning: A Third of Your Life Ep. 1: Why Unions are Cool Again \(Podcast\)](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Optional learning: A Third of Your Life Ep. 1: Why Unions are Cool Again (Podcast).

- Context Module Sub Header

There will be no tech focus assignment or discussion forum this week. Please use this time to prepare for Test 2.

Published. Click to unpublish There will be no tech focus assignment or discussion forum this week. Please use this time to prepare for Test 2..

[Unit 12 Review](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Unit 12 Review.

Unit 13 Review

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Unit 14 - Last week / Final reflection / Test 2

Last week / Final reflection / Test 2

Reading 1: The A.I. Revolution Will Change Work. Nobody Agrees How.

Published. Click to unpublish Reading 1: The A.I. Revolution Will Change Work. Nobody Agrees How..

Reading 2: Will A.I. Take All Our Jobs? This Economist Suggests Maybe Not.

Published. Click to unpublish Reading 2: Will A.I. Take All Our Jobs? This Economist Suggests Maybe Not..

Test 2 Instructions

Published. Click to unpublish Test 2 Instructions.

- Quiz

Test 2 -available from May 11 to May 12

May 12

100 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Test 2 -available from May 11 to May 12.

Final Essay: The importance of being human in a world of new technologies. (Due: April 26)

Published. Click to unpublish Final Essay: The importance of being human in a world of new technologies. (Due: April 26).

- Assignment

Submit your final paper here.