

**Course Information:**

Current Issues in Technology, ED 650, 3 Credits

**Prerequisites:** Students must be admitted into the University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Education Master's of Education Program or obtain instructor approval to enter this course.

**Location:** Distance delivery, primarily asynchronous.

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Roy F. Roehl II  
UAF School of Education, Gruening 714 B  
Office Hours: By appointment  
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**Course readings/materials:****Required Text:**

Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). *Current topics in technology* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Course Technology Press.

**Supplemental reading required:**

Guzdial, M. (2009). Sharing ideas, writing apps, and creating a professional web presence.  
*Communications of the ACM*, 52(7), 10-11.

Kay, R. (2003). Presence technology. *Computerworld*, 37(10), 36.

Sandborn, P. (2008) Trapped on technologies trailing edge. *IEEE spectrum*, 45(4), 43-58.

Will, E. M., & Callison, C. (2006). Web presence of universities: Is higher education sending the right message online?  
*Public Relations Review*, 32(2), 180-183.

**Supplemental recommended text and readings:**

These books are not required but will be very helpful through-out your career as a student and researcher.

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Kelly, R. (2010). Instructor's personality: An essential online course component. *Distance Education Report*, 14(4), 8.

**Course Description:** This course is designed for Masters of Education in Technology and Innovation students as they work towards their master's projects or theses. Other students are welcome to take this course but please be aware this course is heavily immersed in many technologies and requires multiple web based skills. We will focus exploring and developing your digital presence. In today's technologically filled world we need to develop a greater understanding of the personal, social, and professional influences and impacts of such presences and develop a way to manage such issues.

*Catalog Description:* The primary objective for the course is to develop a higher level of awareness and responsibility regarding your digital presence in an ever evolving technological landscape. You will study a series of social, professional, personal and research technology based topics while developing connections between these current events, issues, and emerging technologies. You will then evaluate your social, personal, and professional presence in these technologies while seeking to extrapolate the possible ramifications of these current issues on your digital footprints.

*Alignment with School of Education Mission:*

The School of Education prepares educators to work in urban and rural Alaska and to work with K-12 students from many backgrounds, with a particular focus on Alaska Native languages and cultures. We are particularly committed to enhancing the educational opportunities for Alaska's rural and Native populations. Through the UAF rural campuses, we are responsive to local and regional needs within the state.

Through our programs and professional development courses, we promote the following goals:

- Increase the number of qualified educators for Alaska's schools
- Enhance the professional skills of Alaska's K-12 educators
- Develop and support ongoing systemic educational collaborations with Alaska schools and communities
- Conduct collaborative research on cross-cultural and multicultural education

This course supports the UAF School of Education's mission by providing students with the skills necessary to design thoughtful individualized instructional environments utilizing technologies and strategies appropriate to all learners. Students will acquire skills in the management and implementation of technology that will enhance their professional qualifications based on ISTE and Alaska teacher standards for technology and instructional design.

***Course Goals:***

1. Consider the relationship between current issues in technology along with their varied presences in such technologies.
2. Critically review current and emerging technologies for personal, social, and professional ramifications.
3. Explore current technologies and the influence of culture on such technologies.
4. Research current literature in the areas of digital presence and related issues.
5. Create a process allowing for consistent appraisal of current issues in technology.

***Student Learning Outcomes:***

Students will be able to:

- ✓ Research, create, and implement a personal technology management plan.
- ✓ Demonstrate the necessary skills to begin online article research.
- ✓ Post substantive feedback on peer created materials.
- ✓ Recognize personal and cultural bias in technological issues.
- ✓ Research and articulate their digital presence.

***Instructional methods:***

This course is designed to be delivered asynchronously and completely online. In this course we will be immersed in a myriad of web-based tools through-out the course, if you are not prepared to participate in this type of course, then you should consider taking an alternative course.

While this is a primarily an asynchronous course there be three scheduled synchronous "check-ins", the first one will occur during the second week of classes. This will allow everyone an initial connection to one another and iron out any start of course questions. The second check-in will occur the week before instructor initiated withdrawal date, this is meant to confirm the student's progress in completing the course. The third check-in will occur the week before finals to allow for any review regarding the summarizing assignments. There will be other optional check-in's scheduled to meet students needs or offer extra assistance and advising through-out the semester.

**Course Calendar:**

Week	Topic	Assignments	Readings
1	Course methodology managing technical literacy and all that data.	Class introductions and UAF account set-up. Confirm technology is up to speed Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 16: Technology Literacy Forum 18: Technology Overload
2	The process for technological development and considerations of such development.	Required Check-in Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 23: The Power of Information. Forum 28: Moore's Law and Technology
3	Researching and online research tools.	<b><i>Review of research materials paper due.</i></b> Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Guzdial, M. (2009). Sharing ideas, writing apps, and creating a professional web presence.
4	Digital presences, what are they and how do we begin to manage them?	Begin researching digital presence Is culture a consideration in technology? Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 6: Human Evolution and Technology Kay, R. (2003). Presence technology.
5	Current issues in technology a personal connection	<b><i>Current issues in technology paper due.</i></b> Weekly blog posting and discussion	Review articles submitted by classmates.
6	Sorting fact from fiction on the web.	<b><i>Research question paper due.</i></b> Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 30: Reality Mining
7	Personal information on the web. Can we control it?	Post rough draft of personal presence essay for peer review. Assess your personal essay for cultural bias. Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 11: Online Personal Health Records Forum 17: Internet Privacy
8	Personal information on the web. Can we control it continued.	<b><i>Personal presence essay due.</i></b> Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 14: Wireless mobile computing
9	Social networking sites and their influence.	Post rough draft of social presence essay for peer review. Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 1: Emerging technologies and cyber exploits.
10	Social networking sites and theory.	<b><i>Social presence essay due.</i></b> Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 10: Microblogging and office productivity.
11	Professional considerations and your professional presence.	Post rough draft of professional presence essay for peer review. Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Will, E. M., & Callison, C. (2006). Web presence of universities: Is higher education sending the right message online?
12	Managing your professional presence.	<b><i>Professional presence essay due.</i></b> Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Maureen S. & Eugene S. Simko (2009). Forum 13: Copyright protection and the electronic textbook.
13	What is a personal tech-	Submit readings to share with class.	Sandborn, P. (2008) Trapped on technologies trailing edge.

	nology management plan?	Outline your personal technology management plan. Weekly blog posting and discussion.	Review student submitted readings.
14	What is a personal technology management plan continued.	Post personal technology management Plan for peer review. Weekly blog posting and discussion	Review and comment on posted personal technology management plans.
15	Student presentations	<b><i>Personal technology management plan due.</i></b> Weekly blog posting and discussion	

### ***Course Policies:***

***Participation:*** Posting to blogs, survey tools, websites, and discussion boards is required. Actively participating in your classmate's electronic presence is important for you and your fellow students. We will engage in conversations, activities, and assignments based on your growing understanding of what it means to be an active inquirer/researcher in various digital settings.

Missing more than one posting will affect your grade. Please email me if you do miss a posting deadline. All assignments should be submitted on the due dates as noted in the course assignments section.

***Academic Honesty:*** The University of Alaska Fairbanks policies are in effect in this class. Academic honesty is required of all members of a learning community. Unethical behavior such as plagiarism or using others' work without appropriate acknowledgment in presentations, papers, or other course assignments is not tolerated.

Research must be conducted in a professional manner; this includes the write-up and the inclusion of the proper citations and formatting.

Students who fail to follow academic integrity policies may be given failing grades. Plagiarism has several definitions but simply put it is the appropriation or imitation of the language or ideas of another person and presenting them as one's original work.

If you are uncertain about proper documentation of sources or citations, please discuss this with me. If you quote or paraphrase someone else's ideas, opinions, theories, evidence, or research you must give the source credit. For instance parts of this syllabus were based on the work of Dr. Melissa Rickey

Ethics, Professional Conduct, Courtesy and Respect for others is an expected norm in any setting and is the norm at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The use of the American Psychological Association (APA) approved guidelines for ethical behavior is actively encouraged in regard to respectful language usage (i.e., gender, age, ableness, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, nationality, or other cultural factors).

***Late Assignments:*** Points may be deducted for assignments turned in late.

***Evaluation:*** Student grades will be based upon the following criteria and assignments.

100%-90% A  
89%-80% B  
79%-70% C  
69% - 60% D  
59% or below is failing.

**Summary of assignments:**

Class participation/postings	200 points
Review of research materials	200 points
Paper on current issues in technology	100 points
Research questions/topic	100 points
Essays regarding technological presence.	300 points
Personal technology management plan	100 points
Total Points	1,000 points

1. Class participation/ Posting (20%: 200 pts): You are expected to demonstrate that you have done the readings by contributing appropriately to class discussions. You are expected to contribute to class discussion boards regularly. You will post questions, responses and/or observations regarding the readings on the various social networking tools for the other class participants to read and respond to. These postings serve as the starting point for future seminars. All class participants need to read and respond to the class postings.

2. Research Article Reviews: (20%: 200 pts): Research, read and critically review ten research articles focused on your area of inquiry.

The objective of this assignment is to familiarize yourself with a selection of current issues in technology through various research journals, by critically reading, analyzing and reviewing the research.

This will also allow you to start perusing research articles that may be of interest to you and perhaps choose some that you can use for your future work. These should be primary research articles in printed guides [reviews, indexes, abstracts, journals, etc.] or in database sources [ERIC, Academic Premier, Proquest, etc.]. At least eight of your sources must come from scholarly journals two may be web based but must also be supported by other sources. Please include the proper citations and adhere to APA 6 formatting and writing conventions.

3. Essay on Current Issues in Technology: (10% : 100 Points) Clearly identify the important points of conducting research regarding this topic, include a summarizing section on how you may see future impacts and issues regarding this current issue in technology. This paper must explore you issue in-depth with appropriate supporting APA 6 documentation, length three-five pages.

4. Research Question/Topic: (10%: 100 points) Submit a three-five paper exploring a specific concept, idea, or research based question on an emerging technology. Please include the proper citations and adhere to APA 6 formatting and writing conventions.

5. Presence Essays: (30%: 300 points) Author a series of three two page essays that critically review current and emerging technologies from the three following perspectives: Personal, Social, and Professional. Please include the proper citations and adhere to APA 6 formatting and writing conventions.

6. Personal Technology Management Plan (10%: 100 pts): This is the final paper for this course. Write a personal technology management plan based upon at least ten sources, on how you plan to incorporate current issues of technology into your various presences.

***Student Services:***

The Division of Student Services provides student-centered programs and services designed to assist students in achieving their personal, academic and career goals. In collaboration with the academic deans, we lead the university in recruiting a diverse student body. With the use of ongoing assessment we support and develop programs and communities that

contribute to the retention, success and leadership development of students. Go to <http://www.uaf.edu/ses/> to learn more.

The Center for Distance Education provides student service support for this online course. See their website at: <http://distance.uaf.edu>

Writing support services are available to UAF students through the Writing Center, located in 801 Gruening, 474-5314, online at: <http://www.alaska.edu/english/studentresources/writing/>. You are encouraged to use this resource to meet writing expectations.

Technology support services are available through the OIT Support Center, 450-8300 (Toll Free: 800-478-8226), online at: <http://www.alaska.edu/oit/sc/about/contact.xml>, and via email to [helpdesk@alaska.edu](mailto:helpdesk@alaska.edu).

### ***Disability Services:***

UAF offers many services for students with disabilities. If you require information regarding these services. Their URL is <http://www.uaf.edu/apache/disability/> or you give them a call at 474-5655. I will work with Office of Disability Services in providing any reasonable accommodations, please notify me of any such requirements as soon as possible.