Information Technology and Society

A Freshman Seminar Course

Instructor: Pramod P. Khargonekar, Dean, College of Engineering

Course Description: Development and adoption of information technology (IT) is among the most revolutionary developments in the last 20 years. Information technology has now become part of our daily life. IT is causing dramatic changes in business, education, health care, entertainment, science, etc. Its impact goes beyond national boundaries. It allows people to work across continents. It is likely to be a major force in reshaping human society in the coming years. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine what our societal structures will evolve in the 21st century as IT and its future development pervades every aspect of our life.

This course will be conducted in a seminar form. The instructor will provide background materials and initial presentations of key issues. The course will involve reading background materials and substantial class discussions. Towards the end of the semester, students will conduct a team project. Course grade will be based on the team project, written report, and class presentations.

This course is aimed at freshmen who have an interest in information technology and its relationship to business, entertainment, education, government, health care, etc.