

## Assignment 1: i203 – Social and Organizational Issues of Information

- Assignment 1 is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- Bring **two** stapled copies of your assignment to class.
- Papers should be double-spaced, 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman).
- Cite quotes and paraphrased arguments from the readings using parenthetical documentation, i.e., (Smith, p.24).

### Part I (40%)

Choose *any 2 terms* from the list below. In no more than 200 words per term, explain (1) what this term means, and (2) its significance to our understanding of the development of technology. You should cite authors and page numbers from our readings where appropriate, but **do not use direct quotations**.

Impact-Imprint

Localism

Natural trajectory

Ethnoaccountancy

### Part II (60%)

Answer the following two questions in about 500 words each.

1. Consider the following statement: “The popularity of the cell phone was inevitable; today’s society is highly mobile and the cell phone was the next logical step from the regular landline telephone.” In your essay, answer both of these questions: (1) what theoretical perspective(s) that we have discussed in class and in our readings are represented in this statement, and (2) Critique this statement using support from our readings and lectures.
2. Describe at least two topic areas of interest to you that could become your final paper for i203. These could be topics that we have covered in our overviews in the past few weeks, topics that we have not yet discussed in class but are on the syllabus, or topics that are related to social issues of information but are not even on our syllabus. You will get full credit for this part of the assignment as long as you write a few paragraphs that explain your topic ideas.

To stimulate your thinking, here are some sample final paper topics from previous years.

- Motivation in Open-Source Software Development
- What kind of Social Networks Enable ICT Diffusion in Developing Regions?
- Social Issues in Privacy within Facebook
- The Effects of Anonymity in Internet Systems on the Development of Self-Esteem
- Evaluating the Privacy Effect in the Use of Computer Surveillance