

HIST 4571 / Response No. 4

Due in class on Wednesday, November 26, 2018

No emailed copies accepted.

Write a 2-page response to the following questions, devoting about one page to each question. Make sure to follow the following requirements:

- your text should be single-spaced
 - use 12-pt Times Roman font
 - if you chose to quote any of the articles, please do not quote anything beyond 2-3 lines at the most; in other words, you should use quotes sparingly. The idea is to hear your analysis of the source material;
 - as you write the answers to the following question, please also, as appropriate, engage with the material from *Leonardo to the Internet* (by Misa) or *Technology Matters* (by Nye)
 - you do not need to use footnotes or citations, except to refer to page numbers from any of the articles
1. In the readings for Monday, you had to read about seven different “everyday” technologies. I’d like you to pick **two** of them. For each technology, devote about a single page to the following parts. Each part will be a few sentences or a short paragraph.
- a. Summarize the development of this technology based on the article. Highlight any unusual aspects of its technical development that laypeople would find surprising.
 - b. Describe the larger ‘technological system’ that this technology is embedded within. Think about both the social and the economic context of the technology. For this you will have to do some outside research.
 - c. Speculate if the technology can be a “political” artifact in the way Langdon Winner talked about (see his reading from September 10). Explain your answer.
 - d. Do you see this technology as enforcing “cultural uniformity” or “diversity”? Refer to the reading from *Technology Matters*, Chapter 5 and cite it as appropriately. Explain/justify your answer