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| File: SOCIETY **INTRODUCTION TO SOCIETY**A society is a group of people who form a semi-closed system. At its simplest, the term society refers to a large group of people sharing their own culture and institutions. A society, then, is a network of relationships between people. The English word society is derived from the French société, which, in turn, had its origin in the Latin societas, a "friendly association with others," from sociusmeaning "companion, associate, comrade or business partner." Thus, the meaning of society is closely related to what is considered to be social. Implicit in the meaning of society is that its members may share some mutual concern or interest, a common objective or common characteristics. The social sciences generally use the term society to mean a group of people who form a semi-closed social system, in which most interactions are with other individuals belonging to the group. More abstractly, a society is defined as a network of relationships between social entities. A society is also sometimes defined as an interdependent community. An important feature of society is social structure, aspects of which include roles and social ranking.On a simpler level, a society is a grouping of individuals, which is characterized by common interest and may have distinctive culture and institutions. "Society" may refer to a particular people, such as the Nuer, to a nation state, such as Switzerland, or to a broader cultural group, such as Western society. Society can also be explained as an organized group of people associated together for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic, or other purposes**OBJECTIVES**After you have finished this topic you should be able to:* Define society.
* Write about one area in which society affects our daily life.
* Defend your position on a controversial aspect of society as it is analyzed in one of the readings below,
* Describe one way in which Puerto Rican society is unique.
* Critique one of the movies listed below and its handling of social themes.

**INSTRUCTIONS*** Read the definition above of society and make sure you understand it.
* Choose one of the readings below, read it, and based on it write a journal entry describing how society impacts our lives.
* Read an Internet article on controversial aspects of society, analyze the article carefully, and post your opinion on your Student Homepage.
* Select one of the movies listed below, watch the movie, and critique its approach to the theme.

**READINGS**RESERVE LIBRARYIf you live near campus and go to the Library often, you can check out one the readings we have put on reserve. When you are finished, write a journal entry about what you have learned and post it on your Student Homepage.Bennett, W. J. (2001). *The broken hearth: Reversing the moral collapse of the American family.* New York: Doubleday. (Chapter III – Cohabitation, Illegitimacy, Fatherlessness).Capetillo, L. (2004). A nation of women: An early feministspeaks out = Mi opinión sobre las libertades, derechos y deberes de la mujer. Houston, TX: Arte Público Press. (Section titled “Man and Woman”).Huntington, S. P. (2004). *Who are we? The challenged to America’s national identity.*New York, NY: Simon Schuster. (Section titled “The Hispanization of Miami”).Postman, N. (1995). *The end of education: Redefining the value of school.* New York, NY: Vintage Books. (Chapter 5: The Spaceship Earth)INTERNET READINGS* 1. Since human society began there has been ambivalence about the role women should play in society. For an interesting overview of the gender question go to: http://www.wsu.edu/gened/learn-modules/top\_culture/culture-definitions/women-text.html

**SOCIAL CONTROVERSIES**1. There are more social controversies than you can shake a stick at – gay rights, euthanasia, child labor, etc. This web site carries a list of 63 controversies you can click on http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?scid=11&did=670Take your pick.
2. How best to solve controversies? Here’s a new approach – Party-Directed Mediation. It’s based on getting the two parties to meet face to face, thereby empowering each. What do you think of it? http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/ucce50/ag-labor/7conflict/PartyDirMediation.htm

**MOVIES**1. For an interesting movie on defining social values see *Restoration* (Robert Downey, Jr. and Meg Ryan). Cast in 17thcentury England, Robert, trained as a doctor, is seduced by the high life at court. He gets his values straight when a plague hits London.
2. What would a person be like raised outside of society? Believe it or not a wild child was found in Francein the 1700’s that was unable to speak, communicate or function in society. A dedicated doctor teaches the child how to reclaim his place in the world. The film *The Wild Child* (directed by Francois Truffaut) is based on this true story.
3. What happens when social norms collapse? See the movie *Lord of the Flies* where young boys are marooned on an island but try to adopt some rules to get along (they fail).
4. Radical Ideology can have devastating effects on a society. George Orwell wrote the classic and there have been several film animated versions made – *Animal Farm*. The resident animals revolt against farmer Brown but sink into a totalitarian state of exploitation by their own.
5. Maybe the best insight into our society could come from outside. That’s right, aliens. If you haven’t seen this quirky comedy, you are in for a treat – *Coneheads* (Dan Aykroyd and Jane Curtin). Our aliens have a heck of a time trying to figure out Blunthead (our) society.

**PUERTO RICAN SOCIETY**1. One of the biggest social / values issues in Puerto Ricois the question of the death penalty. For a historical background and views pro and con go to http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?scid=11&did=670
2. Many Puerto Ricans seem to agree that Puerto Ricois a much divided society because of our political situation. Some Puerto Ricans would like to see Puerto Rico become a state of the United States and others would prefer that Puerto Rico become a fully independent country. Others want the island to remain a commonwealth. Read about our political situation at this website: http://www.puertorico-herald.org/.
3. Puerto Rico has many women who have excelled for the contributions they have made to their society. Many of them were ahead of their times. One of them is Luisa Capetillo. Read about her views regarding men and women; material has been placed on reserve. You can also read her biography at http://www.bookrags.com/biography/luisa-capetillo/.
4. Many Puerto Ricans say that the largest city in Puerto Rico is New York. Probably this means that Puerto Ricans are aware that there are more Puerto Ricans in New York City than in any city or town on the island. Yet, when Puerto Ricans born or raised in New York come to Puerto Rico, many times they are rejected by Puerto Ricans from the island. To read how New York Puerto Ricans feel, read the poetry of Tato Laviera. Two poems have been placed on reserve in the library. You can also do a search on the Internet.
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| **INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE**Science in the broadest sense refers to any system of knowledge attained by verifiable means. In a more restricted sense, science refers to a system of acquiring knowledge based on empiricism, experimentation, and methodological naturalism, as well as to the organized body of knowledge humans have gained by such research. Scientists maintain that scientific investigation must adhere to the scientific method, a process for properly developing and evaluating natural explanations for observable phenomena based on empirical study and independent verification. Science typically, therefore, rejects supernatural explanations, arguments from authority and biased observational studies.Fields of science are commonly classified along two major lines: Natural sciences, which study natural phenomena; and Social sciences, which study human behavior and societies. Whether mathematics is a science is a matter of perspective.Fields of science can be further distinguished as pure science or applied science. Pure science is principally involved with the discovery of new truths with less (or no) regard to their applications. Applied science is principally involved with the application of existing truths in new ways.**OBJECTIVES**After you have finished this topic you should be able to:* Define science.
* Write about one area in which science affects our daily life.
* Defend your position on a controversial aspect of science in the readings below.
* Describe one way in which Puerto Rican society is unique.
* Critique one of the movies listed below and its handling of science themes.

**INSTRUCTIONS*** Read the definition above of science and make sure you understand it.
* Choose one of the readings below, read it and based on the reading write an essay describing how science impacts our lives.
* Read an Internet article on controversial aspects of science, analyze the article carefully, and post your opinion on your Student Homepage.
* Select one of the movies listed below, watch the movie, and critique its approach to the theme of science.
* Visit one of Puerto Rico’s science museums and write a journal entry on what you learned from your visit.

**READINGS**RESERVE LIBRARYIf you live near campus and come to the Library often, you can check out the readings we have put on reserve. Here is a list for this topic. When you are finished write a journal entry about what you learned and post it on your Student Homepage.Darwin, C. (2004). The descent of man. In G. L. Bowie, M. W. Michaels, & R. C. Solomon (Eds), *Twentyquestions: An introduction to philosophy* (pp. 128- 133). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. INTERNET READINGS* Believe it or not science can be fun! Here’s a science page for kids that poses science riddles and gives snappy answers. Try it! http://sciencejunkies.com/
* Most students don’t like science, right? Wrong! Check out these ten myths about science: http://www.geocities.com/otisbrown17268/scihist.html Are you surprised?
* For some whacky science experiments go to http://www.scientificameriken.com/ Once you are in click on the title in the homepage and start exploring.

**SCIENCE CONTROVERSIES**1. There’s a whole field in science called “crypto zoology” – it may or may not be real. The best example is Bigfoot. Here’s the link to the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society’s discussion forum. Read some of the postings. What do you think?. Does Bigfoot exist? http://www.pabigfootsociety.com/sightings.html
2. Whatdo you think were the most controversial topics in science in 2006? Vote on itathttp://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10382996/.Then go to the main story “Scienceran headlong into society in 2005”and read in detail about someof the science controversies.

**SCIENCE IN THEMOVIES**1. Oneof everybody’s favorite in science is astronomy – probably because we’rewondering if there are aliens out there. The movie*Contact*(Jodie Foster)answers that question with a resounding YES. But the movie also shows some ofthe seamier sides of the scientific establishment when they pass over the bestqualified scientist because she is a woman. The first part of the movie is shotat the Arecibo Observatory.

**SCIENCE INPUERTO RICO**Here’s two neat ways to connect to science in PR.1. Visitthe Arecibo Observatory (close toArecibo). It’s the biggest telescope in theworld. They have an excellent educational center in the foyer. You canspendan hourlearning about astronomy from the exhibits(many of them interactive). Before you go you might want to check out their website athttp://www.naic.edu/.
2. Closer to home is theBayamónScienceMuseumandZoologicalPark(next to Sam’s and OfficeMax).Theydon’tseem to have a webpage, but check outthis recent article on a visit to the Park:http://www.puertorico-herald.org/issues/2004/vol8n09/PRSST0809-en.html
3. Haveyou heard thatPuerto Ricocould be hit by anenormous tsunami? Read an article tolearn about the dangers of this phenomenon athttp://www.puertorico-herald.org/issues2/2005/vol09n34/Tsunami.html
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| File: TECHNOLOGY**INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY**Technology predates both science and engineering. It is a broad term dealing with the use and knowledge of humanity's tools and crafts. It may be defined as: "Solutions for real human problems by the development and application of tools, machines, materials, goods, or information in the form of skills, knowledge, processes, blueprints, plans, diagrams, models, formulae, tables, engineering designs, specifications, manuals, or instructions."The use of technology has a great many effects; these may be separated into intended effects and unintended effects. Unintended effects are usually unanticipated, and often unknown before the arrival of a new technology. Nevertheless, they are often as important as the intended effect.The effects of technology on the environment are both obvious and subtle. The more obvious effects include the depletion of nonrenewable natural resources (such as petroleum, coal, ores), and the added pollution of air, water, and land. The more subtle effects include debates over long-term effects (e.g., global warming, deforestation, natural habitat destruction, coastal wetland loss.) Each wave of technology creates a set of waste previously unknown by humans: toxic waste, radioactive waste, electronic waste.The most subtle side effects of technology are often sociological. They are subtle because the side effects may go unnoticed unless carefully observed and studied. These may involve gradually occurring changes in the behavior of individuals, groups, institutions, and even entire societies.The implementation of technology also influences the values of a society by changing expectations and realities. The implementation of technology itself is often influenced by values. **OBJECTIVES**After you have finished this topic you should be able to:* Define technology.
* Write about one area in which technology affects our life.
* Defend your position on a controversial aspect of technology discussed in one of the reading below.
* Describe one way in which technology is being applied in Puerto Rico.
* Critique one of the movies listed below and its handling of a technological theme.

**INSTRUCTIONS*** Read the definition above of technology and make sure you understand it.
* Choose one of the readings below, read it, and based on it, write a journal entry describing how technology impacts our lives.
* Read an Internet article on one controversial aspect of technology, analyze it carefully, and post your opinion on your Student Homepage
* Select one of the movies listed below, watch the movie, and critique its approach to the theme
* Visit a construction site in Puerto Rico (there is one underway right next to the Trimester Program) and describe the various technologies in use there.

**READINGS**RESERVE LIBRARYIf you live near campus and go to the Library often, you can check out one of the readings we have put on reserve. Here is a list for this topic. When you are finished write a journal entry about what you learned and post it on your Student Homepage.Lycan, W. (2004).Robots and minds.In G. L. Bowie, M. W. Michaels, & R. C. Solomon (Eds), *Twenty questions: An introduction to philosophy* (pp. 180-186). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.INTERNET READINGS* 1. Ok, where would you be without your washer and dryer? And yet you take it for granted. For a history of how you got this marvelous technology check out: http://inventors.about.com/od/wstartinventions/a/washingmachines.htm.
	2. Technology has had a huge impact in Higher Education, the best example being Distance Learning. You yourself are a beneficiary of this technology by virtue of taking this on-line course (or a victim, depending on your point of view). There are whole universities on-line, the most famous being the Open University of England (25,000 student a day log on doing their academic work). For a history of how this university developed log on to: http://www.open.ac.uk/about/ou/p3.shtml. Some people in Englandstill do not consider it real education.
	3. Farming technology is as old as it gets – New Stone Age. And it’s still developing. Check out this article on Aquaculture: http://aquaculture.noaa.gov/.  I wish them success; I love fish and shrimp.
	4. No one has spent more on technology than the military. They have really come up with some neat things too. Would you believe “liquid body armor”? Read about it at http://usmilitary.about.com/cs/armyweapons/a/liquidarmor.htm. Once a bullet hits, it becomes rigid. Hey, maybe our policemen in PR could use some of that.

**TECHNOLOGICAL CONTROVERSIES**1. You’ve seen enough sci-fi movies to know what a “cyborg” is. Would you like to be one? Are you one already? Check out this link http://www.lucifer.com/~sasha/articles/Cyborgs.html. He actually argues that a cyborg is a good thing! Be sure and take the test to see if you are a cyborg.
2. Video gaming is a technology that has swept the world. But are they harmful to our children and young people? Read this article: http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/read180/community/bestpractices/pdf/RS\_A\_L01\_006-008.pdf.  It is actually used to teach children how to distinguish fact from opinion in writings. After you have read the article see how the teacher uses it.
3. The most destructive technology in history is the atomic bomb. For a short video lesson on the bombs dropped on Japan, go to http://www.history.com/media.do?action=clip&id=gahq\_kid\_layzie\_bone\_broadband. Did you get the test question right?

Perhaps the most poignant criticisms of technology are found in what are now considered to be dystopian literary classics: Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange*, and George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four.* If you haven’t read any of these, this course furnishes a good opportunity.**MOVIES**1. Robotics may be the ultimate extension of the Industrial Revolution. But how smart (e.g. how human) can a robot get? See the movie *Bicentennial Man* (Robin Williams) and ponder this question
2. Along the same lines but a little more chilling, there is *I, Robot* (Will Smith). Do you think it could come to this?
3. Concern for the adverse effects of technology goes way back. See if you can find the silent era film *Metropolis* (directed by Fritz Land)

**TECHNOLOGY IN PUERTO RICO**For a first hand encounter with technology right here in Puerto Rico, visit any construction site and pay attention to how technology is being applied. First you will notice that construction is all over the place – new buildings, highways, bridges, maybe even your own house! How did the Egyptians, Greeks, etc. do it differently? Draw some pictures, diagrams of the technology you see at construction sites. |