



# Short Syllabus



## Course Title

From the Stone Age to the Information Age: An Inquiry into the Origins of Culture

## Lecturer

Dr. Noa Gedi

## Contact details

[dea30th@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:dea30th@tauex.tau.ac.il); office hours by appointment

## Semester

Spring, Tuesday & Wednesday, 12:00-14:00

## Short Description

The invention of computers and the internet has been commonly acknowledged as the great technological revolution which marks the beginning of the information age. But is it just technological? Is it just about media and communication? Why is contemporary culture in its entirety now defined by its digitality?

The course will probe into the meaning of the digital turn and its wide cultural implications through an interdisciplinary lens and conceptual analysis. Our inquiry begins with a historical and anthropological journey into the cradle of human culture and to the first modern human some 250,000 years ago (homo sapiens). In this part of the course, we will tackle issues like whether human culture is a singular phenomenon, or the relation between culture and nature, and between the material and the spiritual.

We will then proceed to evaluate the nature of the overall cultural transformation instigated by digital technology, comparing it to previous technological revolutions in and subsequent changes in our cultural landscape. Finally, we will attempt to assess the position and role of the human subject as the instigator of cultural evolution vis-à-vis the predominance of virtual worlds and artificial intelligence and their overwhelming effect on life as we know it.

## Final grade components

### Midterm:

Group project (3-4 persons) presented in class + separate individual short commentary submitted on Moodle 20%.

### Final requirement:

Take-home exam 70%

Participation: 10%.

## Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.\*



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת תל אביב  
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

# Short Syllabus



## Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.\*

## Final assignment

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.\*

## Additional requirements

---

\* See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details