Course Description
Most jobs that exist today might disappear within decades. As artificial intelligence outperforms humans in more and more tasks, it will replace these people in the work. New professions will likely require more creativity and flexibility, making it difficult for economically displaced people to secure work. Consequently, by 2050 a new class of people might emerge-those who are not just unemployed, but unemployable.

In this course, students will examine the history of technology and discuss ways in which technology is poised to rule over humans. This course seeks to develop students’ ability to evaluate technology critically and understand the ways in which humans intervene in the design, manufacture, usage, repair and implementation of technology. Ultimately, this course aims to arm students with the analytical tools from the social sciences necessary to judge whether or not, and why, technology will rule all of us.

Topics
1. Use of technology by humans throughout history
2. The changing relationship between humans and technology
3. Technology and its impact on humans today
4. Possible future scenarios for the place of technology in human society (and the workplace)
5. Keeping the role of technology in perspective

Grading Scheme
- Class Participation (30%)
- In-class Discussion (30%)
- Personal Response System (PRS) Exercises (15%)
- Presentation (15%)
- Written Assignment (10%)

[Topics and grading schemes are subject to change as deemed appropriate. Students will receive information and guidelines in class on how they will be assessed for the course.]

Instructor
Prof. Naubahar SHARIF
Prof. Sharif is an Associate Professor at the Division of Social Science. His research interests include the sociology of the innovation systems conceptual approach; the role of innovation/technology in Hong Kong; university-industry linkages; and economic linkages between Hong Kong and Guangdong. He completed the Executive Education program in Innovation for Economic Development at Harvard University in 2011 and has consulted for the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Commission from 20006-10. A dedicated teacher, he has been nominated for HKUST’s Michael G. Gale Medal for Distinguished Teaching, and won the School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS) Best Teacher Award in 2009. Naubahar has been awarded both 'Public Policy Research' (PPR) and 'General Research Fund' (GRF) grants by Hong Kong’s Research Grants Council (RGC), and at HKUST from the Research Project Competition (RPC), Center for Enhanced Learning and Teaching (CELT), the Undergraduate Core Education Office (UCEO) and from School-Based Initiatives (SBI). He has published numerous articles in leading journals including Research Policy, International Journal of Technology and Management, and Science, Technology and Human Values.