

SCO103 New Empires: The Reach and Frontiers of the Tech Sector

Level: 1

Credit Units: 2.5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY SEMESTER

Synopsis:

The disruptive impact of the rise of the tech giants will shape and influence society, the economy, and political trends for the foreseeable future. This course will equip students with the skills and the knowledge to become informed participants in the debates on managing the social, economic, and political impact of the rise of the tech giants. It will examine the threat of tech monopoly power, the role of the state in promoting and shaping the growth and development of the tech sector, and the impact of the tech sector on social stability and the authority and legitimacy of state institutions. None of the debates on these issues have been definitively concluded. Do the tech giants qualify as monopolies? If they do, what are the appropriate strategies for curbing their power? Should the state play a major role in promoting and regulating the growth and development of the tech sector? Will the products, services, and platforms provided by the tech giants exacerbate inequality and undermine the public's trust in state institutions? This course, whose main case studies are the US and Chinese tech giants, will help students to formulate their own answers to these questions.

Topics:

- The Rise of the Tech Giants
- Confronting Tech Monopoly Power
- The State and the Tech Sector (China)
- The State and the Tech Sector (the United States)
- Social Stability in the Age of the Tech Giants
- State Institutions in the Age of the Tech Giants

Learning Outcome:

- Explain how the products, platforms, and services provided by the tech giants give them immense influence and power over society.
- Define the role of the state in promoting and shaping the growth and development of the tech sector in the United States and China.
- Examine how the products, platforms, and services provided by the tech giants strengthen/weaken social stability and the authority/legitimacy of state institutions.
- Develop arguments for and against curbing and regulating tech monopolies.
- Illustrate the arguments for and against state intervention in and regulation of the development of the tech sector.
- Discuss the appropriate strategies for addressing the negative impact of the rise of the tech giants on social stability and the authority/legitimacy of state institutions.

Assessment Strategies:

Continuous Assessment Component	Weightage (%)
PRE-COURSE QUIZ	10

PRESENTATION	60
PROGRESS REPORT	30
Sub-Total	100

Examinable Component	Weightage (%)
Sub-Total	

Weightage Total **100**