VIII. Science, Technology, and Society

Every year we see our world changing with the advancement of science and technology. The way that we communicate, buy goods, receive news, etc. has all been affected by technology. It is important for students to recognize the advantages and disadvantages of technology. The class that I believe has achieved this thematic standard is HIST491—Planning a Course of Instruction with Dr. Joyce. In this class we have discussed how society has been affected science throughout history. Through various assigned readings from our textbook, we were asked to observe and analyze how science and technology had profound effects on international conflicts (the atomic bomb in World War II) and on the national level (the mass media being transformed by television). This allowed us to develop our own opinions on how beneficial technology may or may not be in a historical perspective.

When discussing technology and society, we were assigned two chapters from our textbook to read and use to develop lessons. The first chapter discussed the effect that television had on society during the 1950s, focusing on its influence of the perception of what the American housewife should be. The second chapter discussed the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan at the end of World War II. This was the chapter I used to develop lesson assessments in addition to the lesson description. In my lesson I chose to discuss how the advancement of science during the war led to the creation of the atom bomb and the effects that this new science had on politics and international relations. Being a History education major, I am not strong in science nor do I have a particular taste for it. However, through this assignment I was able to develop an appreciation for how I can connect the advancement of science and technology to a history classroom.