Electronic Device Policy

The technology God has provided for us can be an awesome thing! I want you to learn to use technology to facilitate your learning and not ever to allow technology to hinder your learning.

This class involves a lot of discussion and class participation. This means that all students are expected to actively listen to me and to one another in order to participate in classroom activities. The guidelines outlined below will explain things and help ensure that this happens.

If you are unable to contribute to the discussion or are otherwise distracted by your computer, tablet, phone, or smartwatch, or in any way fail to follow the guidelines below, I will ask that you refrain from using your device in class, and your privilege of using technology in our class will be removed.

Laptops & Tablets. You are welcome to bring your own laptop or tablet to use in class. Examples of acceptable use in class include making graphs, research, gathering lab data, and typing lab reports. You may not use your laptop (or any other device) to check email, social media, browse the Internet, play games, watch videos, etc. This hinders your learning and also distracts those around you.

> **Note taking.** Have you discovered how you best learn from taking notes? For most students, I highly encourage you to take notes by handwriting them. Many studies show that for most students, using a laptop to type lecture notes is not recommended. These studies have proven that students learn more and test scores are higher when they hand write notes instead of typing them.

> **Faster isn't always better.** Often students feel they can keep up better when they type notes instead of hand write them. While this may be true, studies show that typing notes fast doesn't allow your brain to process the information as fast as you type, so you're missing out on a layer of learning and will actually not only get less from the lecture, but also you'll remember less later on. If you have trouble keeping up, all lectures are recorded, so you can go back and watch the vodcast and fill in missing gaps in your notes.

> **Getting Organized.** Some students feel they can organize their notes better by typing them. In fact, there are great apps that will allow you to scan your handwritten notes and organize them in searchable files.

If you do choose to type lecture notes because you've discovered that it's the best way for you to learn, or if you are using a laptop for any other reason in class, you must follow the following guidelines:

1. When you are writing formulas, equations, or solving problems, you are required to hand write those notes on notebook paper. You can scan them into your typed notes later.

2. You may not use your laptop (or any other device) to check email, social media, browse the Internet, play games, watch videos, etc. This hinders your learning and also distracts those around you.

Cell Phones. There will be many times when you will need access to a cell phone in class. If you don't have one or can't bring yours to class, that's okay, you can work with your lab partner. Examples of acceptable cell phone use in class include taking pictures or videos for lab, scanning information, research, gathering data, and typing lab reports. Taking occasional screen shots of the board is okay, if you ask first; however, remember that you learn way more from writing information that from studying a photo of it.

Studies show that cell phone use can be a major distraction to learning, so for this reason, **if you bring your cell phone to class, you must follow these guidelines:**

1. Please keep your cell phone on silent and put away unless you have permission from me to be using it for class.

2. You may not use your cell phone (or any other device) to text, check email, social media, browse the Internet, play games, watch videos, etc. Not only is this disrespectful, it hinders your learning and also distracts others.

Smart Watches. You are welcome to wear a smartwatch to class; however, it must be used as a watch only and not ever as a communication device. If you do wear a smartwatch to class, you must follow these guidelines:

1. While in class, your smartwatch must be kept on "Do Not Disturb" or some other similar setting.

2. You may not use your smartwatch (or any other device) to text, check email, social media, browse the Internet, play games, watch videos, etc. This hinders your learning and also distracts those around you.

3. You may not wear your smartwatch during tests or quizzes. It must either be placed out of sight in your backpack, or you may leave it on my desk.