FREEDOM, PRIVACY, AND TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER
The aim of this cluster is to provide the knowledge that will enable those who complete the cluster to face thoughtfully the question of the appropriate use of and limitations upon modern technology. One important feature of the cluster is that it brings together actual sciences with humanistic and social science disciplines.

SOPH INQ: FREEDOM, PRIVACY, AND TECHNOLOGY
Privacy and freedom are highly valued, and are to some extent protected by the U.S. Constitution. Recent rapid advance in science and technology, combined with compelling motives to use this technology to control and exploit aspects of human life that have heretofore been left to chance or to individual choice, make urgent the questions about what uses of technology should be encouraged or permitted.

CLUSTER COURSE OFFERINGS
HST 410U American Technology
HST 410U American Lawyering
HST 330U American Revolution /Constitution 1763-1789
PHL 311U The Morality of Punishment
PHL 399U Elementary Ethics
PHL 399U Life and Death Issues
PS 325U Laws and Morality
SCI 350U Biopolitics
SCI 350U Ethics and Science
SCI 350U Science: Power and Knowledge
A) Statement of Cluster Theme

Recent rapid advances in science and technology, combined with compelling motives to use this technology to control and to exploit aspects of human life that have heretofore been left to chance or to individual choice, make urgent the question how far new technology should be exploited. There are clear benefits to be gained from the use of modern technology in many enterprises, including commerce and the control of crime and disease. The ability of both businesses and governments to gather and store vast amounts of personal information has a dramatic impact on the lives of even ordinary people. Advances in biological science, especially genetics, make it possible to predict and to control aspects of life that were previously left "in the hands of the gods."

Privacy and freedom are extremely highly valued, and are to some extent protected by the U.S. Constitution. There is some question whether this Eighteenth Century document, whose authors could not have foreseen modern technological advances, is adequate to maintain an appropriate balance between privacy and personal freedom on one hand and the benefit of the new technology on the other.

Courses in the cluster will have the over all purpose of providing students with the knowledge that will enable them to face thoughtfully questions regarding the appropriate uses of and limitations upon rapidly developing modern technology.

B) General Education Goals

One of the two most prominent general education goals of the cluster is to promote rationality and critical thinking. The other main general education goal is consideration of ethical issues. The nature and value of freedom and privacy will be considered, along with questions as to what means are appropriate to preserve these values.

The goal of communication will be achieved by frequent assignments. Students will be assigned tasks that involve not just competence in written English, but also command of technical terminology and research writing techniques used in the sciences.

We have not yet devised a satisfactory way of achieving the goal of promoting appreciation of diverse points of view. We had hoped to include an anthropology course dealing with other cultures' attitudes toward freedom and privacy and their ways of adjusting to limitations on them. Unfortunately, we were unable to find an anthropologist who was in a position to offer such a course.

C) Cluster Coherence

All of the courses will have direct bearing on the ethical and policy questions concerning the development and proper uses of modern technology. Although courses in genetics and computer
science will be genuine science courses, they will be designed to make prominent the features of the science that give rise to the urgent ethical and policy questions.

D) Brief Description for Students

Privacy and freedom are extremely highly valued, and are to some extent protected by the U.S. Constitution. Recent rapid advances in science and technology, combined with compelling motives to use this technology to control and exploit aspects of human life that have heretofore been left to chance or to individual choice, make urgent the question what uses of the technology should be encouraged or permitted.

The aim of this cluster of courses is to provide the knowledge that will enable those who complete the cluster to face thoughtfully the question of the appropriate use of and limitations upon modern technology.

E)

F) Interdisciplinary Breadth of Cluster

The disciplines of biology, computer science, communications, constitutional history, law and philosophy will be represented in the cluster. One of the important features of the cluster is that it will bring together actual sciences with humanistic and social science disciplines.