

politics of the internet

This course is about how the Internet changes politics and how politics shape the Internet. 'Politics' is broadly defined to include identity, organization, and power. The Internet is the main focus, but other new media will be considered. We start with a theoretical and historical introductions. Subsequent topics include the impact of the Internet on the economy, society, and politics and the problems of international property, privacy, censorship, the global digital divide, and security and crime. Many topics will entail careful examination of one or more well-known websites. This will be a seminar-style course requiring students' active participation in classroom discussions. Students are also required to undertake and present original research. The learning objectives for this class are: 1) Gain an understanding of how media in general and the Internet in particular have shaped politics; 2) Gain an understanding of the major issues involved in regulating the Internet; 3) Become more effective at sending and receiving information and ideas via the Internet; and 4) Improve liberal arts skills, including the ability to do original research.

assignments and assessment

1. Present an effective and an ineffective web page to the class (10%). This will be a 10 minute presentation and will be conducted in groups of 2. Your presentation should present an analysis of what makes these web pages effective or ineffective and the general lessons that we can learn.
2. Group research project (30%). Conducted in groups of 3. Research is to involve both secondary reading and gathering original data. Create a web page, present it to the class, and revise it. Projects will be assessed according to extent to which they address important questions, find pertinent new data, develop rigorous arguments, advance our understanding, and effectively communicate their findings. Creativity will help.
3. Write a 'term web page' on a topic relevant to the politics of the Internet. (20%). This paper may not be on the same topic as the student's group research project. Grading criteria are the same as for the group research project.
4. Short essays on topics covered in readings and lectures (20%). Students will write four essays. Due dates are on the schedule below. Questions for these essays will be distributed approximately a week before they are due. Topics will be taken from lectures and readings. Essays will be assessed based on their mastery of the lectures and readings as well as their ability to find persuasive answers to the question.
5. Class Participation (20%). As this is a seminar-style class, students' critical engagement in class discussion is important.

notes

Students should pay attention to the email account listed under their name on D2L as updates on assignments and requirements may be sent to that account. Students who miss deadlines will only be allowed to make-up the work if the circumstances are truly exceptional, tragic and/or beyond their control. Some leniency may be shown if problems are discussed in advance. Regular attendance is expected as specified by university policy and failure to attend regularly may be sanctioned as specified by university policy. Academic dishonesty may receive the harshest sanctions allowed by

Jim Giles, "Internet Encyclopedias Go Head to Head" *Nature* 438 (15 December 2005) 900-901.

VI. February 17 & 19 Economics: New Age or Bubble?

Manuel Castells, *The Internet Galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, Business, and Society* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 64-115.

Chris Anderson, *The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business Is Selling Less of More* (New York: Hyperion, 2006) 1-40.

Anita Elberse, "Should You Invest in the Long Tail?" *Harvard Business Review* (July-August 2008), 88-96.

*Randall Stross, *Planet Google: One Company's Audacious Plan to Organize Everything We Know* (New York: Free Press, 2008).

VII. February 24 & 26 Society: New identities and organization?

Clay Shirky, *Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing Without Organizations* (New York: Penguin Press, 2008) 1-54, 143-60.

Lee Siegel, *Against The Machine: Being Human in the Age of the Electronic Mob* (New York: Random House, 2008) 125-79.

*Brett A. Bumgarner, "You Have Been Poked: Exploring the Uses and Gratifications of Facebook among Emerging Adults" *First Monday* 12:11 (5 November 2007) [<http://firstmonday.org/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/2026/1897>].

VIII. March 3 & 5 Power: online politics and reason? 2nd Essay/Mar. 5

Cass R. Sunstein, *Republic.com 2.0* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008) 1-45.

Aaron Barlow, *The Rise of the Blogosphere* (Westport, Cn: Praeger, 2008) 165-84.

A. Sey and M. Castells, "From Media Politics to Networked Politics: The Internet and the Political Process in *Mousepads, Shoeleather and Hope* ed. by Zephyr Teachout, Thomas Streeter, et. al., (Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, 2008) 225-32.

Zephyr Teachout, Thomas Streeter, "The Legacies of Dean's Internet Campaign" *ibid* 233-43.

*Andrew Chadwick (ed.) and Philip N. Howard (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics* (New York: Routledge, 2009).

(Spring Break)

IX. March 17 & 19 Intellectual Property: Who pays who for what?

James Boyle, *The Public Domain: Enclosing the Commons of the Mind* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008) 1-82.

*Lawrence Lessig, *Remix: Making Art and Commerce Thrive in the Hybrid Economy* (New York: Penguin Books, 2008).

*W. Kinnally, A. Lacayo, S. McClung and B. Sapolsky, "Getting up on the Download: College Students' Motivations for Acquiring Music via the Web" *New Media and Society* 10 (2008) 893-912.

X. March 24 & 26 Surveillance or privacy?

John Thomas, "Is It Safe to Talk, Yet? The Evolution of Electronic Privacy Law" in *Computer Security, Privacy, and Politics: Current Issues, Challenges, and Solutions* ed by Ramesh Subramanian (Hershey: IRM Press, 2008) 23-35.

Jonathan Zittrain, *The Future of the Internet*, *ibid.* 200-34.

National Research Council, *Engaging Privacy and Information technology in a Digital Age* (Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press, 2007) 88-121.

XI. March 31 & April 2 Global Internet I: Overwhelmed by censorship?

Jack Goldsmith and Tim Wu, *Who Controls the Internet: Illusions of a Borderless World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006) 1-46.

Robert Faris and Nart Villeneuve, "Measuring Global Internet Filtering" in *Access Denied: The Practice and Policy of Global Internet Filtering* ed. by R. Deibert, J. Palfrey, R. Rohozinski and J. Zittrain, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008) 5-28.
Country Summaries, *ibid*, 263-71, 360-3, 364-8.

XII. April 7 (Easter Break)/TBA 3rd Essay/Apr. 7

XIII. April 14 & 16 Global Internet II: Digital divide & Who governs?

*William H. Dutton and Malcom Peltu "The New Politics of the Internet: Multi-Stakeholder Policy-Making and the Internet Technocracy" in *Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics* ed. by A. Chadwick and P. Howard, (New York: Routledge, 2009) 384-400.

Kenneth S. Rogerson and Daniel Milton, "Internet Diffusion and the Digital Divide: The Role of Policy-Making and Political Institutions" *ibid*, 415-23.

John Mathiason, *Internet Governance: The New Frontier of Global Institutions* (New York: Routledge, 2009) 49-58, 71-150.

XIV. April 21 & 23 Unstoppable crime wave?

OECD, *Malicious Software (Malware): A Security Threat to the Internet Economy* (2008) [<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/53/34/40724457.pdf>].

*CSIS, Securing Cyberspace for the 44th Presidency (2008) [http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/081208_securingcyberspace_44.pdf].

*John Arquilla (ed.) and David Ronfeldt (ed.), *Networks and Netwars* (Santa Monica, C: Rand Corporation, 2001).

XV. April 28 & 30 The Future?

*Neal Stephenson, *Snow Crash* (Bantam, 1992)

*Daniel Suarez, *Daemon* (Dutton, 2009)

4th Essay/the day of the final