Dates / contact hours: Fall 2016, 300 hours
Academic Credit: 1 course
Areas of Knowledge: SS
Modes of Inquiry: EI, STS
Course format: (e.g. lecture, lecture + discussion sections, lecture + lab, seminar) Seminar

Instructor’s Information

Ken Rogerson, Sanford School of Public Policy, rogerson@duke.edu, 919-613-7387

Prerequisite(s), if applicable

None

Course Description

This is a course about the politics and policy surrounding technology. There will be a lot of emphasis on the internet. Not about how to use the internet nor even simply how people, groups or organizations use the internet, but about how politicians, policymakers, economists, citizens and society watchers talk about, worry about and understand the internet and other technology. This is a volatile, dynamic, exciting issue, one that is clearly changing the way we look at the world and the way the world looks at us.

Course Goals / Objectives

Learning objectives:
- To understand the internet and other technology at different levels of analysis (i.e., individual, local, national and international)
- To understand the internet and other technology in varying policy contexts and issue areas
- To understand the ethical dilemmas inherent in technology use and regulation
- To cultivate the ability to discuss and write critically about the internet and technology

Required Text(s)/Resources
No texts, readings are referenced in the course schedule below.

**Recommended Text(s)/Resources**

None

**Additional Materials (optional)**

None

**Course Requirements / Key Evidences**

The course grade will be based on the following:

1. *Class participation*. Students are expected to do the reading before class and come prepared to contribute to the discussion. Unprepared students will be noticed. *Attendance*. You are expected to come to class. Absences will result in a lower grade at the end of the semester. *In-Class Debate*. You must participate in the in-class debate. Assignments will be made further into the semester. (15%)

2. Writing. There will be four components to the writing portion of the course.

   - one policy memos (3-4 pages) chosen from any aspect of internet or information technology policy; see No. 3 below (5% for draft and 15% for final)
   - a small group internet-monitoring project; see No. 4 below (25%)
   - midterm paper on geographical internet diffusion; see no. 5 below (15%)
   - a take-home final exam (25%)

3. Policy memos are short political persuasion papers that focus on an existing or proposed policy. Students will do research about a technology issues about which policy has been made or about which students would like to see policy made or changed. They will choose a person or organization to whom they will address the memo, trying to persuade them to act in a certain way.

4. Class project. Small group (3 people) project monitoring an issue of choice combined with a substantive, current event. This will include the following:

   A. The “Information Issues in Politics and Society” Website

      - Each group will study an aspect of the information/technology that is timely and interesting and create a simple web page.
      - The first page (the index page) should be an overview/history of the issue, complete with suggested site links and bibliography (that should be updated throughout the semester). After that, the information should include current anecdotes, research, statements, analysis, etc. about the issue area.
Informed editorial comments are encouraged, once you believe you can see trends or patterns.

B. Assignments

- A statement of the topic/issue you wish to monitor, a list of sites you will begin to look at, resulting in an index page.
- Four (4) subpages which delve into different aspects of your topic, complete with as many links (annotated like a good bibliography) as you feel will support your project.
- A concluding web page which analyzes your experience. What has changed in your topic? What has stayed the same? How are policy makers addressing your topic? This will be posted on the web site as a final analysis of your issue area (this page should be longer and more in depth than the others).

5. Geographical internet diffusion assignment (This is your midterm).

Individually, students will be assigned a geographical area to research. They should prepare a 2-3 page analysis of the diffusion of the internet in that area of the world that includes, but is not limited to, answering the following questions:

- What is the state of the internet in this region (include references to the historical evolution of the Internet in this region)?
- What is the state of the infrastructure (technical capabilities and cost) needed to support internet access and connectivity?
- How much and for what reasons do people in this area use the internet? What are their demographics?
- What are the policies that governments have enacted regarding the internet?

Films:

We will watch three movies for the class, representing various themes in the relationship between technology, policy and society.

- Blade Runner (human/machine interaction)
- Minority Report (databases and data analysis)
- The Net (identify theft and privacy)

The Net will be required for class discussion.

Blade Runner and Minority Report will be part of outside of class discussions, but we will bring in themes from the movies.

The movies will be available via Sakai/Warpwire.
Technology Considerations, if applicable

Students will use technology to do assignments and will need access to technology in order to do some of the evaluative assignments.

Assessment Information / Grading Procedures

Integrated above in the Course Requirements section.

Diversity and Intercultural Learning (see Principles of DKU Liberal Arts Education)

The course will focus on studying technology and politics through a comparative perspective to better understand how different countries and cultures adopt and use technology and how different governments regulate it.

Course Policies and Guidelines

Duke Community Standard

Duke University is a community dedicated to scholarship, leadership, and service and to the principles of honesty, fairness, respect, and accountability. Citizens of this community commit to reflect upon and uphold these principles in all academic and nonacademic endeavors, and to protect and promote a culture of integrity.

To uphold the Duke Community Standard:

- I will not lie, cheat, or steal in my academic endeavors;
- I will conduct myself honorably in all my endeavors; and
- I will act if the Standard is compromised.

Any student caught cheating on any graded assignment will automatically fail this course.

Students may discuss their memos topics with each other, but their final memos must be written individually.

Students may study together to prepare for the final exam, but must do their own work on the actual exam.

All information that is taken from another source MUST be appropriately cited.

Students will bring and use computers in class, but know that there will be times that the laptops must closed for discussion.
Tentative Course Outline or Schedule

Week 1, August 23: Class Introduction; Internet and borders; Issues of the Information Revolution

- Declaration of Independence for Cyberspace, John Perry Barlow. [https://projects.eff.org/~barlow/Declaration-Final.html](https://projects.eff.org/~barlow/Declaration-Final.html)

History and characteristics of the internet

Week 1, August 25: History and characteristics of the internet (con’t)

- Gromov, Gregory, "The Roads and Crossroads of Internet History" (this one has more detail) or "History of the Internet, Internet for Historians" (and just about everyone else) by Richard T. Griffiths, read chaps. 1-4.
- [http://www.vox.com/a/internet-maps](http://www.vox.com/a/internet-maps) (40 maps that explain the Internet, Tim Berners Lee)

Part 2: Writing workshop

**ORGANIZE SMALL GROUPS**

Small Group discussions

Week 2, August 30: Regulation I and Government Intervention

- Telecommunications Act of 1996 Summary (Available on Sakai)
- Text of CAN-SPAM Act. You can find it at [https://www.congress.gov/](https://www.congress.gov/) (type “Can Spam Act” into the search box; it is S.877 in the 108th Congress)

Regulation II

Public/private sector relations


Week 2, September 1

Demographics, Use and Identity

- Julian Dibbell, “Rape in Cyberspace” (Available on Sakai)
- Jonathan Glater, To: Professor@university.edu Subject: Why It's All About Me February 21, 2006, The New York Times (You can find this through Lexis/Nexis).
- Blade Runner (movie)

Internet Policy Issues: Internet Policy Issues: Social Networking Sites/Cyberbullying/ Cyberstalking

- Case Study (Available under Sakai)
- Cyberbullying and Obama Administration, Hans Bader

**FIRST INDEX PAGE DUE**

Week 3, September 6: Access; Digital Divide

- Amy McDonald, “Can technology help end poverty in the world?” August 2014, Deseret News (Available on Sakai)

Internet and International Politics: access; content and context; Globalization and the Internet; The Global Digital Divide

**Week 3, September 8: Interest Groups Online and Through the Air**

- Lance Bennett and Alexandra Segerberg “The Logic of Connective Action” Information, Communication & Society, 15:5, 739-768. (Available on Sakai)
- Malcolm Gladwell, “SMALL CHANGE, Why the revolution will not be tweeted.” http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/10/04/101004fa_fact_gladwell

**Blogs, Citizens, Media and Politics**

- Joe Strupp, “No longer on the fringe, political bloggers now drive coverage” Editor and Publisher (Available on Sakai).

**Week 4, September 13: Mass Media and New Technology**

- Google News (news.google.com)

**Recommended reading (not required)**


**DRAFT OF MEMO DUE**

**Week 4, September 15: Fall Break**

**Week 5, September 20: Political Parties, Campaigns and Elections**
• Walt Crawford, “Survey Says . . . Or Does It?” EContent (Available on Sakai)
• Andrew Chadwick and Nick Anstead, “Parties, Election Campaigning and the Internet” in The Handbook of Internet Politics, Chap 5. (Available on Sakai)
• Social Media in Election Campaigning (EU) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/bibliothecque/briefing/2014/140709/LDM_BRI%282014%29140709_REV1_EN.pdf

***Discussion of U.S. presidential elections

Week 5, September 22: Terrorism, Cyberwarfare, Hacktivism

• “Network Insecurity” John Seabrook, The New Yorker, May 20, 2013
• #jihad, Brendan Koerner, Wired Magazine, April 2016: http://www.wired.com/2016/03/isis-winning-social-media-war-heres-beat/
• Minority Report (movie)

Recommended reading (not required)

• “Cyberwar: Taking Stock of Security and Warfare in the Digital Age” Yong-Soo Eun and Judith Sita Abmann (Available on Sakai)

**INTERNET DIFFUSION ASSIGNMENT DUE**

Week 6, September 27: Guest Prof. Joel Rosch; Data online: Uses and misuses

Week 6, September 29: Internet Policy Issues: Copyright and Intellectual Property

• http://www.chillingeffects.com
• Keith Aoki, James Boyle and Jennifer Jenkins, “Bound by Law?” http://www.law.duke.edu/cspd/comics/
• Twitter Censorship, Techdirt, January 27, 2012

Internet Policy Issues: Domain Names

• ICANN (browse web site)
• UDRP OPINION GUIDE Berkman Center, Harvard Law School
• U.S. Principles on the Internet’s Domain Name and Addressing System
• Truth in Domain Names Act
• David Post “Are Internet Domain Names Property?” Washington Post, August 1, 2014 (Available on Sakai)

**SECOND WEB PAGE FOR GROUP ASSIGNMENT DUE**

*Week 7, October 4 and 6: Autumn Festival Holiday*

*Week 8, October 11: Internet Policy Issues: The Great Firewall; Wikileaks and Snowden*

• Wikileaks Case Study
• The Wikileaks Files, Introduction by Julian Assange

**Recommended reading (not required)**


*Privacy and the Internet*

• Daniel Solove “The Future of Reputation: Gossip, Rumor and Privacy on the Internet” Chapters 1 and 7 (Available on Sakai)
• [Dealing with Digital Cruelty](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/23/dining/deal?_r=0), Stephanie Rosenbloom, NY Times, August 23, 2014
• Watch “The Net” for class discussion.

*Week 8, October 13: In-class Debates*

• Government Monitoring of Citizens
• Terrorists use of the Web; Cyberviolence
• Free Speech Online
• Copyright
• Net Neutrality
October 19, 5 pm

**WEB PROJECT AND FINAL EXAM DUE**

Bibliography (optional)