

ASTU 400F - Democracy and Development in the Age of the Internet and New Media

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Assignments/Marks Breakdown

10% participation (attendance, quality of discussion generated, choice of readings/materials, and preparation)

- 3% for attendance (if more than one class missed, lose the 3%)
- remaining 7% based on two peer evaluations at mid-point and end-of-semester. Rubric to be created collaboratively on Day 1.

10% weekly reading responses (half-page summaries/reflections on points of interest or contention in the weekly readings). Marked for completion (1% per response)

20% facilitation of one class presentation/discussion (in pairs)

25% One 1800 to 2000-word paper. The paper assignment will require participants to pick a contemporary political event (i.e. an election), and come up with a relevant analysis of how the internet and new media has impacted that event, using course readings and any other available research. Due in Week 6 (5% draft peer review, 20% final)

35% One final, collaborative project, intended to be a practical, hands-on exploration and implementation of what we've covered throughout the course. This will involve both a written and creative component, for example, creating a blog to follow a certain issue, video project etc. Due/presented in final class

Description and Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will

- Have a strong conceptual understanding of media and information flows, and how they affect and are affected by various political and economic contexts
- Be able to challenge and analyze a variety of viewpoints on the topic;
- Create an original, innovative project based on themes from the course material.

• Week One: Welcome to course, logistics/admin stuff, syllabus

- Declaration of Independence of Cyberspace
- Syllabus overview
- Create rubrics
- Assign/schedule presentations

• Week Two: Introduction

- Information/media flows
 - Schudson, Michael (2003), "[Click here for democracy: a history and critique of an information-based model of citizenship.](#)" Democracy and new media. Eds. Henry Jenkins, David Thorburn and Brad Seawell. Cambridge: MIT Press. 49-60.
 - Dean, Jodi (2005), "Communicative Capitalism: Circulation and the Foreclosure of Politics." Cultural Politics: an International Journal, Volume 1, Number 1, March 2005 , pp. 51-74(24) (Will Email)

- Benkler, Yochai (2006), "Political Freedom Part 1: The Trouble with Mass Media", *The Wealth of Networks: How Social Production Transforms Markets and Freedom*, Yale University Press 2006 (Will Email)
 - Callison, Candis. "[The Fate of Truth in Journalism](#)." First published in Nexus, November 2009 no. 53.
 - [Global Penetration of the Internet \(2009 Report\)](#) (Akamai)
- **Week Three: Information Poverty/Digital Divide**
 - [Pippa Norris readings *chapter 1 and 4*](#)
 - The New Imperialism and Africa in the Global Economic Village (Y. Z. Y'au) [PDF link on google docs](#)
 - [Van Dijk- The Digital Divide in Europe](#)
 - [MIT Poverty Lab](#)
- **Week Four: Internet and Development**
 - The Internet and Socio-economic development: Exploring the interaction (Shirin Madon London School of Economics) <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/191/>
 - Expanding internet access in Africa and how it will impact development (Charles Kenny World Bank reading) [Internet Access in Africa Reading \(must be logged into VPN to connect\)](#)
 - Allen Hammond- Digitally Empowered Development [Allen Hammond reading \(must be logged into VPN to access\)](#)
- **Week Five: Crowdsourcing: Impacts on the response to humanitarian crises/conflict**
 - [Using the internet to reunite refugees in post-conflict situation \(RefUnite\)](#)
 - [New Media and news distribution in crisis scenarios \(video\)](#)
 - [Ushahidi: Crowdsourcing Crisis Information](#)
 - [Social Networks and Information Systems to Handle Emergency and Reconstruction in Natural Disasters: the L'Aquila Earthquake Case Study](#)
- **Week Six: Diasporas/Insurgencies/Terrorism/Crime **ESSAY DRAFT DUE IN CLASS****
 - Op/Ed: Ronald Deibert: [Breaking up the Dark Clouds in Cyberspace](#)
 - The Internet and the Zapatista Movement in Mexico: [Digital Zapatistas \(must be logged into VPN\)](#)
 - [The Importance of the Internet to the Post-Modern Terrorist and its Role as a Form of Safe Haven \(David H. Gray\)](#)
 - Mark P. Whitaker: [Tamilnet.com: Some Reflections on Popular Anthropology, Nationalism, and the Internet](#)
- **Week Seven: Intro to the Blogosphere/Social Media World **ESSAY DUE****
 - [Clay Shirky Ted Talk](#)
 - Woody: [New competencies in democratic communication? Blogs, agenda setting and political participation](#)
 - Munger: [Blogging and political information: truth or truthiness?](#)
- **Week Eight: Democratic Engagement**
 - **Guest Lecture: Dr. Max Cameron (Blogging of 2006 Peruvian Election)**

- 'Bloggers On the Bus' Excerpt from book (focuses on the role of blogging during the 2008 Obama campaign)
- Deborah Wheeler: [Empowering publics: Information Technology and democratization in the Arab World—Lessons from Internet cafés and beyond](#)
- Technology for Transparency: [Tracking civic engagement technology online](#)
- **Week Nine: Internet and Authoritarian Regimes: Internet censorship**
 - OpenNet Initiative country reports: <http://opennet.net/research/profiles>
 - Ronald Diebert: [Firewalls and Power: An Overview of Global State Censorship of the Internet](#)
 - Joshua Teitelbaum: [Dueling for "Da'wa": State vs. Society on the Saudi Internet](#)
- **Week Ten: The Internet in China**
 - David Talbot: [China's Internet Paradox](#)
 - Rebecca MacKinnon: [Flatter World and Thicker Walls? Blogs, Censorship and Civic Discourse in China](#)
 - Human Rights Watch: [How Internet Censorship Works in China: A Brief Overview](#)
 - G. Elijah Dann & Neil Haddow: [Just Doing Business or Doing Just Business: Google, Microsoft, Yahoo! And the Business of Censoring China's Internet](#)
- **Week Eleven: Popular mass movements in Authoritarian Regimes**
 - **Guest Lecture (Tentative) on political participation in Iran**
 - OpenNet Initiative: [Pulling the Plug: A Technical Review of the Internet Shutdown in Burma](#)
 - Dorothy Denning: [Cyberwarriors: Activism and Terrorism in Iran](#)
 - Joshua Goldstein: [The Role of Digital Networked Technologies in the Ukrainian Orange Revolution](#)
- **Week Twelve: Presentations of Final Projects/Wrap Up**