

PSCI/MPIA 5374 E-Governance

<http://Scholar.vt.edu>

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office hours 3-5 wednesday afternoon in person. Online office hours arranged via email.

abstracted syllabus for public posting, full syllabus is on record and posted in the class.

This course will cover contemporary theories of e-governance. It will confront central themes in the governance of the internet and populations on the internet. We will discuss internet governance, surveillance, and search engines. In examining these topics, amongst others, we hope to develop a critical understanding of the issues of e-governance as they occur now, and will occur in the future.

The course goals are:

1. To gain a solid understanding of the problems of governance;
2. To develop a critical interpretation of the relationship between networked mediations and governance at the local, national, and transnational levels;
3. To understand some of the basic governing policies, governing groups, and interested parties of internet technologies and governance;
4. To critically evaluate scholarship in the field;
5. To develop a research project and compose a paper on a topic related to e-governance at a very high level of competence.

This is a graduate level course and with that comes high expectations. For a graduate course you should be spending 3 hours in the online classroom, 0-10 hours doing the assigned readings, and 2-6 hours of research on materials related to your research project each week. You should plan to average around 15 hours per week on this class.

The grades of the course will look like this:

6 graded reading reviews chosen randomly worth 5 points each =	30 points
Participation	20 points
Final Paper	50 points
Total	100 points

Books:

Daemon

Internet Politics

The Information Revolution and World Politics

Governance and Information Technology: From Electronic Government to Information Government

Governing Global Electronic Networks: International Perspectives on Policy and Power Search Engine Society

The Governance of Privacy: Policy Instruments in Global Perspective

Access Denied: The Practice and Policy of Global Internet Filtering

The Exploit: A Theory of Networks

The books order at the main vt bookstore has been.... well.. screwed up. The tech bookstore in blacksburg has all of these. [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and barnes and noble have all of these. Basically the only one that seems to be hard to get at this moment that i can determine is 'the exploit' which is out of stock in some places, but likely won't be for long. I am aware that you may not want to buy all of these books, which is perfectly fine, any library will be able to get them for you via inter-library loan if they do not already have copies of the books. Some of the books were available electronically also. You will be responsible for reading the books the week they are due, preferably early in the week, we don't really have much leeway there if we are going to have good class discussion.

On the books and reading:

The books in this class should not be thought of as textbooks. They are better thought of as; things to think with, to argue with, and things that are very likely wrong. That said, the books do have some facts, they do provide interesting positions, and they are worth reading in full. There is quite a bit of reading in this course. The way I read a non-fiction book is this: first, I read the conclusion first, then I read the front matter, then I will read the chapters, and if i do not have time to read the chapters, then i will read most of the chapters, and use the index to find out if the book deals specifically with my topics, and then i will look up those passages that deal with my topics. You should strive to read all of the texts. You should also read them critically, patiently, and hopefully with pleasure.

Schedule

Week 1 Introductions

<http://archive.ncsa.illinois.edu/prajlich/forster.html>

Week 2 Realities

Daemon by Daniel Suarez (this is a thriller/popular fiction book that is available in most

English language bookstores that stock popular fiction)  
reading review 1 due Thursday

Week 3,4 Internet Politics  
Internet Politics by Andrew Chadwick

Week 5 Transnational Internet Politics  
The Information Revolution and World Politics By Elizabeth Hanson

Week 6,7 Internet Policies, Internet Powers  
Governing Global Electronic Networks: International Perspectives on Policy and Power  
by William J. Drake (Editor), Ernest J. Wilson III (Editor)

Week 8 spring break!

Week 9 E-government  
Governance and Information Technology: From Electronic Government to Information  
Government by Viktor Mayer-Schönberger (Editor), David Lazer (Editor)

Week 10 Search Engines  
Search Engine Society By Alexander Halavais

Week 11 Privacy  
The Governance of Privacy: Policy Instruments in Global Perspective

Week 12 Filtering  
Access Denied: The Practice and Policy of Global Internet Filtering by Ronald J. Deibert  
(Editor), John G. Palfrey (Editor), Rafal Rohozinski (Editor), Jonathan Zittrain (Editor)

Week 13 Annotated Bibliography due

Week 14 Theory of the Network  
The Exploit: A Theory of Networks by Alexander Galloway and Eugene Thacker

Week 15 Rough Draft of final paper due

Final exam period Final Draft of paper due