POSC 3338/MLPOS 5338 Internet and Politics  
Spring 2015

Dr. Jon R. Taylor  
Meeting Time: 11:10AM – 12:15PM TTH Malloy 241  
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Office Hours: 7:00AM – 5:00PM M; 11:00AM – 5:00PM W; 7:00AM – 12:00PM F; 7:00AM – 8:00AM and 12:30PM – 3:00PM TTH  
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Required Texts:

None – You will provide me with a flash drive. In return, I will provide you with readings, lecture notes, and supplementary materials.

Course Description:

This course discusses the impact of e-government, with an in-depth examination of current government development and management challenges in the electronic delivery of services and information to their constituents’ 24 hours a day seven days a week. Several topics are examined: (1) current E-government challenges and trends (2) Web presence development (3) statutes affecting development and management (4) constituent needs assessment (5) service delivery application and transaction package (6) how to develop effective E-government administrators (7) long/short range planning and budgeting.

Course Learning Objectives:

Upon completing the class, students will be able to:

1. Develop knowledge consistent with analyst level administrators.  
2. Understand municipal and state electronic government development.  
3. Develop the ability to discuss current electronic government issues and trends.  
4. Comprehend and discuss local and national issues, technology, service delivery systems, statutes, history, and trends affecting electronic government development.  
5. Understand customer needs assessments relating to electronic government development.  
6. Have a working knowledge of procedures in developing Web presence, from emerging to fully integrated, electronic government Web sites.  
7. Evaluate local, county, and state government Web sites.
Course Requirements:

There will be a final exam and a social media/website requirement that will cover the approaches and ideas covered in class. You will be expected to participate in online discussions via the course blog, as well as social media like Twitter and Facebook. The following is the grading breakdown for the course:

- Social Media/Website/Blog Evaluation: 20%
- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final exam: 40%

Students are expected to prepare thoroughly for each class session, to submit written materials on time, and to participate actively and constructively in class. Attendance is critical. All written work is expected to be of high quality. That is, it should be logically organized, complete, and lead the reader to a conclusion. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, proper referencing, and organization will be graded as well as content and presentation. All quotations and significant paraphrases should be properly cited.

Social Media/Website/Blog Evaluation:

You will evaluate 3 – 4 government or political web sites against the following criteria:

- Overall first impressions of the site
- Website content
- Design
- Usability

For this assignment, create a scale of 1 – 5 or 1 – 10 and then write 3 – 4 page memorandum that evaluates your chosen websites. The completed evaluation memorandum is due on April 30, 2015.

Class Rules:

- Attendance and social media participation is required and worth 20% of your overall grade
- Arriving late is strongly discouraged
- Reading course assignments is expected
- Unlike my other courses, electronic devices are encouraged in class
- Showing respect to other students and the professor is expected
- Make up work will be limited to special circumstances (and with prior notification only)
- Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will result in a failing grade.
Attendance and Miscellaneous:

I rarely, if ever, take roll in class. That does not mean I fail to notice the lack of your presence in the classroom. On the contrary. With such intimate classes as offered at the University of St. Thomas, your absence is quite noticeable. I like to have you in class. I value your input. But I make the presumption that since you are in college that you are a reasonably responsible adult. It bothers me very little if you have found someone or something better than attending my class. Of course, it bothers me very little to flunk you as result of your finding that someone/something better. If you don't show up for class and/or blow-off or do extraordinarily poor on the homework assignments, exams, and the article review, you may be looking at crime or a job in the fast food industry as a succinct alternative to the stresses of higher education.

Academic Integrity:

“It would have been better if he had never been born”— Mark 14:21.

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper attribution) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to university policy and reported to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee.

As stated in the Academic Misconduct Code for the University of St. Thomas, academic misconduct includes: (a) cheating (using an authorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement; (b) assisting others in any such act; or (c) attempting to engage in such acts.

Plagiarism is using the work or another person and claiming it as your own. The most common types of plagiarism include:

- Using a paper or portion of a paper prepared by someone else;
- Quoting someone else's language or words without proper quotation or citation; and
- Paraphrasing someone else's ideas, framework, or insights without giving credit to the original author in a citation.

Academic misconduct in any form is unacceptable and suspected violations will be pursued aggressively.
**Students with Disabilities:**

If you have any condition, such as a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined in this syllabus, please notify me and the Office for Counseling and Testing Services in the first week of the course so that we may make appropriate arrangements. All information and documentation of disability is confidential. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request.

**Course Schedule (Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis in class):**

- Introduction: What is E-government? What is M-Government?
- The Rise of Electronic Government
- E-democracy and participation
- Social Media, Web 2.0, and Web 3.0
- Political Impacts: Political Campaigns
- Political Impacts: Political Organizations
- Political Impacts: Political Participation and the Digital Divide
- **Midterm Exam**
- Open Source, Wikis, and Knowledge Aggregation Communities
- **Spring Break: March 9 – 13**
- Dramatic Reduction in Transaction Costs, rise of the “Networked Society”
- Bureaucracy and Politics on the Internet
- Assessing E-Government Performance
- Citizens, Public Outreach, and Administrative Responsiveness
- **Holy Week Break: April 2 – 3**
- Politics of Privacy: Trust and Confidence in E-Government
- E-Government Beyond the United States: Administrative and Political Challenges
- Democratization, Globalization, and Technological Change via the Internet
- Emerging Policy Challenges: Copyright
- Emerging Policy Challenges: Net Neutrality
- **Social Media/Website/Blog Evaluation due April 30**
- Final Exam, May 5 12:00PM – 2:30PM