

Syllabus - Spring 2008
PUBP 6111/4111 (CRN 24966/24999)

“Internet and Public Policy”

Tuesdays 3-6pm
DM Smith 15

Prof. Hans K. Klein
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Office Hours: MW10:30-11:30am and by appointment

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Description

This class examines characteristics of Internet technology that render it unique in the public policy arena. Topic areas include:

- **Technology:** Many policy issues are affected by such technical features as packet switching, routing, the domain name system (DNS), the Internet Protocol (IP), and peer-to-peer architectures. We will analyze the relationship between technology and various policy issues.
- **Institutions:** Institutions have arisen that perform such functions as standards-setting, management, and policy-making. We will study the patterns of interests and influence of such institutions as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
- **Governance:** The Internet's "spaceless" nature is one of its most significant characteristics. It makes all policy global and raises questions of governmental authority beyond territorial borders. We will examine issues of jurisdiction and global governance.
- **Public Policies:** Although of broader significance than just to the Internet, some issues are particularly relevant here: anonymity, intellectual property, privacy, speech regulation, security, and surveillance.

Texts for Purchase

Much material will be available on the Internet. Four books should be purchased:

- Janet Abbate, *Inventing the Internet* (MIT Press, 1999)
- Lawrence Lessig, *Code* (2000)
- Jack Goldsmith and Tim Wu, *Who Controls the Internet?*
- Yochai Benkler, *The Wealth of Networks*

The first two-thirds of the class will focus on intellectually rich works of recent scholarship. The final third will be defined in response to student interests. It will focus more on current policy topics and contemporary issues, e.g. spam, privacy, free speech, intellectual property, Net Neutrality, security, internationalization – whatever students want to study.

Assignments (and percent of grade)

1. Paper 1 - 35%
2. In-class presentation - 10%
3. Paper 2 - 35%
4. Active participation in discussion - 20%

READINGS

WEEK 1 -- Introduction

- Introduction and review of syllabus

WEEK 2 – Global Public Policy (1)

- Goldsmith and Wu, *Who Controls the Internet?* (to page 128)

WEEK 3 – Global Public Policy (2)

- Goldsmith and Wu, *Who Controls the Internet?* (to end)
- Benkler, *Wealth of Networks*, Introduction

WEEK 4 -- History

- Abbate, *Inventing the Internet* (Chaps. 1-4). (first half)
- Raymund Werle and Erick Iversen, “Promoting Legitimacy in Technical Standardization,” *Science Technology & Innovation Studies Vol. 2, March 2006*.

WEEK 5 – Internet Historical Materialism

- Rostow, Walt, *The Stages of Economic Growth* (excerpt) (skim)
- Benkler, Part One, “The Networked Information Economy” (29-128)

WEEK 6 – Internet Mode of Production

- Nelson Minar and Marc Hedlund, “A Network of Peers” and
- Shirky, Clay, “Listening to Napster” In Oram, Andrew (ed.), *Peer to Peer* (excerpts).

WEEK 7 – Internet Political Economy

- Marx, Karl, “Preface to the Critique of Political Economy,” 1859.
- Benkler, Part Two, Chaps 5,6,7, (129-213)

WEEK 8 –Freedom I

- Garvey, John, and Schauer, Frederick (eds.), *The First Amendment Reader*, “Philosophical Foundations of Freedom of Speech” (Chap 2).
- Poole, Ithea de Sola (editor). *Talking Back* (excerpts)

WEEK 9 – Freedom II

- Benkler, Part Two (continued), Chaps. 8,9,10 (273-377)

WEEK 10 – Public Policy I

- Benkler, Part Three, Chaps 11&12 (379-473)

WEEK 11-15 – Public Policy II-V

Students select a policy issue that interests them and:

- Compose a short reading list for the class
- Give an in-class presentation that relates their policy issue to a conceptual framework from earlier readings (20 mins.)
- Lead a discussion (20 mins.)

Some suggested policy issues are:

- Network neutrality
- Intellectual property
- Content regulation/pornography
- Privacy
- Surveillance
- Security
- Innovation
- Economic development