

FYP RFT- 21 – Cyberpolitics in Perspective

Instructor:

Michael E. Ruth, Ph.D.

Office: Megerle Science Bldg, Room 115

Office Hours: T/Th 9:15-11:15AM,
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Or By Appointment

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Course Description:

This course is the first ever to explore how the dawn of the Internet age has impacted the American political landscape. Critical attention will be placed upon the interaction between cyberspace, power, authority, and social organization in U.S. society and beyond. We will consider how citizens have used the internet to forge a new media, ignite a new activism and refashion politics. Special attention will be also paid to the effect of the computer, the internet, and the new media have had on the hearts and minds of the American citizen.

Course Objectives:

- Discuss the impact the Internet has had on the American political landscape, including such issues as: privacy, freedom of speech, the digital divide, & the Internet as a record among others.
- Develop an awareness of the personal and societal relevance of Cyberpolitics.
- Improve oral & written communication skills.
- Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills through systematic reflection & discussion.

Required Texts:

Computer Ethics, 3rd Edition
Johnson, Deborah
ISBN: 978-0130836991

Keys for Writers, 4th Edition
Raimes, Ann
ISBN: 978-061843785

Grading Policy:

- Research Paper (30%)
- Papers
 - Paper #1 (5%)
 - Paper #2 (10%)
 - Paper #3 (15%)
- Class Participation (10%)
- Homework & In-Class Assignments (30%)

Grading Scale:

Letter grades will be determined by the following scale:

Average	Grade
93 - 100	A
90 - 92	A-
87 - 89	B+
83 - 86	B
80 - 82	B-
77 - 79	C+
73 - 76	C
70 - 72	C-
67 - 69	D+
60 - 66	D
< 60	F

Research Paper:

During the course of the semester you will also be asked to write a research, or term paper, and rather than grade the entire effort, there will be several milestones along the way each carrying their own weight. The milestones and their weights are as follows:

- Topic Presentations (10%)
- Bibliography – 10 sources (10%)
- Sources summary (10%)
- Prospectus Presentation (20%)
- Paper (40%)
- Final Presentations (10%)

Writing Center:

For help with any stage of your paper-getting started, organizing ideas, or final polishing, you can make an appointment with one of the WITs by calling the Writing Center, 420-4234 (or just drop by). The Writing Center is downstairs in the library. Any WIT can help, Sundays-Fridays. Check <http://wagner.edu/writing> for hours, and if these hours are not convenient for you, e-mail writing@wagner.edu, about meeting a WIT outside of regular hours.

Course Policies:

- You are expected (and strongly encouraged) to attend and participate in all lectures and discussions. However, your attendance (physical presence) is not a formal requirement and, therefore: ***You are responsible*** for all material covered including all lectures and discussions, handouts, and any announcements given via email, during class, or on the course web page.
- ***Late assignments will be graded late!***
- Any preceding policies may be waived at my discretion

Disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Academic Advisement Center in the Union Building at (718) 390-3278 as early as possible in the term.

Academic Honesty:

The Wagner College faculty and student body take seriously the academic integrity of this institution. The Academic Honesty Committee (AHC), comprised of both faculty and student representatives, hears cases of academic dishonesty. If a professor is concerned that a student has acted dishonestly with regard to his or her academic work, the professor can turn the case over to the AHC for investigation. The Student Government Association (SGA) also wrote an approved student honor code in 2007 that reflects the commitment of the student body to academic integrity. All students are expected to be aware of and abide by Wagner's guidelines for academic integrity. If you have questions about these guidelines, it is your responsibility to ask.

Etiquette:

- Come to class on time. If you do come late, quietly find a seat and take it with as little disturbance as possible. If you must leave the room – do so quietly.
- As you walk into class, kindly silence all beepers, cell phones, and any other noise-producing equipment.
- Depending on the overall punctuality and attendance patterns, I may institute stricter policies over the semester (these policies will not be retro-active).

How to succeed in this class:

- Read the assigned reading ***before and after*** the class.
- Pay attention and participate in the class discussions.
- ***Asking for permission vs Asking for forgiveness → permission*** always wins!
- ***If you don't understand something get help early!***

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Scheduled Topic:</u>	<u>Assignments:</u>
8/26	Introduction to FYP / Syllabus, WIT/Introduction to Writing Process	
8/28	Active Reading, Audience, Summaries, Criteria	Paper #1 Assigned, Read Raines Chap. 1 & 2
9/2	Discussion of Reading/ Proofreading/Editing/Critiquing/ and Revising	Read Raines Chap. 3, Read all privacy papers
9/4	Workshop on Paper #1	Bring enough copies of paper for everyone in the group
9/9	Discussion of Reading/ Argumentative Writing /Critical Thinking	Read Raines 4 and Freedom of Speech papers
9/11	Possible Paper Topics/Develop SC Idea/Group Assignment - Develop an Argument (Court)	Paper #1 Due/Paper #2 Assigned
9/16	Wagner Court: Privacy & Freedom of Speech	
9/18	Workshop on Paper #2	Bring enough copies of paper for everyone in the group
9/23	Paper Topic Presentations	Read Raines Part II
9/25	Library Tour/Researching Sources	Paper #2 Due/Paper #3 Assigned
9/30	How to write your paper/ Academic Honesty/Citation Styles	Read Raines Part III
10/2	Workshop on Paper #3	Bring enough copies of paper for everyone in the group, Bibliography - 10 Potential Sources Due
10/7	Discussion of Reading/Style	Read Digital Divide papers Read Raines Part VI
10/9	Workshop on Revised Paper #3	Bring enough copies of paper for everyone in the group, Summaries of 5 Relevant sources Due

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Scheduled Topic:</u>	<u>Assignments:</u>
10/16	Prospectus/Thesis Writing	Paper #3 Due
10/21	Presentations of Prospectus	Prospectus Due
10/23	Registration Preparation	Bring Wagner Bulletin & Ideas for Spring classes
10/28	Discussion of Reading\Group Project - Prepare Arguments for Wagner Court	Read Democracy & The Internet papers
10/30	Wagner Court: Digital Divide & Democracy In the Age of the Internet	
11/6	Workshop - Research paper	Bring enough copies of paper for everyone in the group
11/11	Discussion of Readings/Prepare Arguments for Wagner Court	Read The Internet as a Record papers
11/13	Workshop - Revised Research Paper	Bring enough copies of paper for everyone in the group
11/18	Wagner Court: The Internet as a Record and Open Ideas Not Discussed	
11/20	Showing of Experiential Learning Videos	Videos for Experiential Learning Due
11/25	Final Presentations II	
12/2	Final Presentations III	Final Copy Due - Research Paper