The course will analyze how information technology has transformed capacities for individuals and groups to share knowledge, develop strategies, and expand the scope of their work. The last decade has been transformative in terms of the tools and resources available to those seeking to influence society at the local, national, and international level. Indeed, the distinction between these levels of activities, long a cardinal axis of social science analysis has become increasingly blurred. Even within the last year, we have three major events: the political revolt in Iran, the economic summit in Copenhagen, and the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti that have dramatically demonstrated how much the landscape has changed.

This course will focus on analyzing these and similar events in the context of theories of social movements, global civil society and international relations.

The course will have three thematics, which will accord roughly with three sections of the course:

1.) An application of theoretical paradigms from international relations, social movements and global civil society theory, to the rise of non-state actors in the context of the “information revolution” and the political changes that have occurred in the last fifteen years.

2.) An examination of critical cases of international mobility and mobilization: including discussions of the campaign to ban land mines, anti-globalization campaigns, environment, China, Iran and genocide prevention.

3.) An examination of changes in and challenges to journalism, as the rise of bloggers and other more participatory forms, have combined with economic challenges to the daily newspaper have changed the information ecosystem.

In certain cases, we will be primarily interested in the mobilization patterns and techniques. In others, it will be the effects of the underlying information and communication technology. It is the relationship between the increasing centrality of new forms of organization and new information technologies that will be a recurrent them of this course.
The course will raise questions such as:

- To what extent does it make sense to speak of global civil society? What are NGOs’ roles within it?

- Which types of organizations are most able to use and/or most dependent on sophisticated use of information and communications technology?

- Has the development of new modes of communication made more open and less hierarchical organizational forms possible?

- Has this development changed the balance of power between challengers and authoritarian governments in countries like China and Iran?

- What (if anything) does it mean to talk of a Twitter Revolution in places like Moldova and Iran?

- How have democratically-driven mapping processes, like those that have taken place in cases as diverse as the electoral violence in Kenya and the response and rebuilding efforts in Haiti, affected the international community’s ability to respond.

- To what extent does the rise of amateur journalism offer new opportunities for collaboration with traditional actors?

- How can society best capitalize on these new sources to support civil society and an active democracy?

The course will also enhance students’ digital literacy by instructing them on how to use blogs, wikis, rss feeds, and social tagging systems. Digital literacy is critical for two reasons. First, because its tools have become critical for participation in today’s workplace, whether it be in business, government, or the non-profit sector. Second, because it is only by using social media tools that one comes to understand their power to develop and diffuse one’s message. Increasingly, it is necessary not only to use individual tools, but also to understand how to combine them to reach different audiences and to reinforce one’s message.

**Required Texts:**


Course Site(s) and Requirements

We will be using a Google Sites Wiki as the web platform for this course. The site address is At the level of logistics, the Google Sites Wiki will function as a replacement for Blackboard—assignments and readings will be posted, discussions will be held, etc. A wiki is a very different platform, because all content, except that which is explicitly locked can be edited by everyone in the course. The most powerful effect of this openness is that it enables active collaboration. It also will enable cross-linking between documents, comprehensive search capacities and the ability to see what everyone has posted recently.

We will use a wiki for two major assignments and a number of minor ones. The major assignments include a simulation based on the Danish cartoon crisis and a disaggregation/reaggregation of the Clay Shirky text.

Students will also be required to use the following technologies to focus on an issue of their choosing related to the class themes. This will likely involve contributing to a site called Digitactive, which tracks and describes how different advocacy and activist groups use the internet. The structure and requirements for this assignment will be worked out collectively in the class.

- Blog (WordPress)/Posterous
- Microblog (Twitter)
- RSS (Netvibes)

Increasingly, businesses and NGOs, no matter how small have to develop comprehensive social media strategies. One of the goals of the course is to enable you to understand how these technologies function and how they can best be coordinated and combined.

Grading and Other Policies

Course grades are based on three requirements:

- Class and wiki participation: 30%
- Mid-Term Take-Home Exam: 30%
- Final Take-Home Exam OR Blog/Twitter/RSS feed: 40%

Participation: All wiki assignments must be completed before class:

Final Project Due Date: May 8

All late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade (i.e., from an A- to a B+) for each day or fraction of a day late. All students are responsible for saving a hard copy or a backup in some other digital form of all assignments.

Other Policies
Google Sites Wiki: All assignments and course documents are available on the Google Sites Wiki.

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.


**Week 1: Jan 20**

**Wednesday**

Discussion of syllabus, educational goals, and course technology.

Student Introductory exercise.

**Resources that will be discussed in class:**

- **Haiti Rebuilds -- The Birth of Global Citizen 1.0**

  Twitter Revolution – Iran YouTube Video, Produced by ABC Australia, distributed by Journeyman Pictures
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW2oy9c5NiM&skipcontrinter=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW2oy9c5NiM&skipcontrinter=1)

  Netvibes discussion of Haiti: [http://www.netvibes.com/ws10#Haiti](http://www.netvibes.com/ws10#Haiti)

**Week 2: Changing Media/ Autonomous Voices** Tag: CMAV

**Post-Industrial Revolutions and Manifestos (Monday, Jan 25)**


Karl Marx, “The Communist Manifesto”, Ch 1 and 2, [http://bit.ly/6t1i0e](http://bit.ly/6t1i0e) and [http://bit.ly/7D7g1s](http://bit.ly/7D7g1s)

Eben Moglen, “The dot Communist Manifesto”, pp. 1-7

**Information Revolutions, (Wednesday, Jan 27) Tag: IReV**

Clay Shirky, Here Comes Everybody, ch. 1-3

Global Voices Online [http://globalvoicesonline.org/about/](http://globalvoicesonline.org/about/) Global Voices Online is a non-profit global citizens’ media project, sponsored by and launched from the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at the Harvard Law School.


Recommended:

Change.org


**Week 3: Global Civil Society and NGOs:**

**NGOs and Civil Society (Monday, February 1) Tag: NgoCs**
CR Anheier, Helmut, Marlies Glasius, and Mary Kaldor. [Selections from:] "Introducing Global Civil Society." Global Civil Society, 2001, pp. 3 - 21

Kenneth Anderson and David Rieff, “Global Civil Society: A Sceptical View”, GCS 2001

Recommended:


NGOs and States Global Policy Forum,  http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/role/stateindx.htm (Articles about role of NGOs and increasing efforts to regulate them.)

**NGOs, Civil Society, and the Internet  (Wednesday February 3) Tag: NgoInt**


Shirky, Here Comes Everybody, Ch. 4,6,7

Recommended:


**Week 4: Networks and the Power of Symbols**

**Norms (Monday February 8) Tag: IRnorms**

Keck and Sikkink, Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics Chapter 1 and 2.

Recommended:


**Environmental Networks and Norms (Wednesday February 10)**

Keck and Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders, "Environmental Advocacy Networks", Ch.4, pp. 121-165

**Week 5: Social Movement Theory**

**Transnational Activism (Wednesday February 17) Tag: TransAct**

Kathryn Sikkink, ‘Patterns of Dynamic Multilevel Governance”, Transnational Protest and Global Action, Ch. 7, pp. 151-173
Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy

Week 6:
Conflict Diffusion (Monday February 22)
Sidney Tarrow and Donatella Della Porte, Transnational Protest and Global Activism, Ch. 1 (1-14), 6, and 10.

Danish Cartoon Exercise.

Networked Activism (Wednesday February 24) Tag: CyberAct

Shirky, Chapter 7 “Faster and Faster” and 9, “Fitting our Tools to a Small World”

Week 7: Land Mines / Diffusion of Norms / Global civil society / ICT

Global Civil Society and Norm Diffusion (Monday March 1) Tag: LmNorms

Cameron, Maxwell, “Global Civil Society And The Ottawa Process: Lessons From The Movement To Ban Anti-Personnel Mines” Canadian Foreign Policy, ISSN 1192-6422, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Fall 1999), 85-102. (directory)

ICT (Wednesday March 3) Tag: LmICT


Index on Landmines: http://www.icbl.org/index/ a comprehensive guide to Landmine resources on- and off the Internet.

Take Home Mid-Term: Will be handed out on March 3 and be due at 5:00 on March 5

Week 8: Anti-Globalization / “Global Justice”

Context, Movement, and Structure (Monday, March 8) Tag: AgNet)


Felix Kolb, “The Impact of Transnational Protest on Social Movement Organizations: Mass Media and the Making of Attac Germany” Transnational Protest and Global Activism, pp. 95-120.

Indymedia videos from Hong Kong WTO
Target WTO: Common Front, "Struggles from the Margins: Dec 17/18 Battle of Hong Kong against WTO" "http://targetwto.revolt.org/node/156"

Radio Hongkong.de
"http://radiohongkong.de/clip.php?clipId=1263&PHPSESSID=6c8acc05c6e212ccd9dc2da869b3a763"

**Anti-Globalization and ICTs (Wednesday, March 10) Tag: AgICT**

Peter Van Aelst and Stefaan Walgrave “New Media, new movements? The role of the internet in shaping the anti-globalization movement” *Cyberprotest: New media, Citizens and Social Movement*, pp. 97-122.

Brigitte Le Grignou and Charles Patou “ATTAC(k)ing expertise: does the Internet really democratize knowledge? *Cyberprotest: New media, Citizens and Social Movements*, pp. 164-180

Recommended:

Steve Wright, “Informing, communicating and ICTs in contemporary anti-capitalist movements”, *Cyberprotest: New media, Citizens and Social Movements*: pp. 77-93.

**Week 9: Wikis, Networks, and Knowledge**

**Monday March 22,**

Clay Shirky, *Here Comes Everybody*, Ch. 5,

Web 2.0 tools to promote social networking for the Forest Connect Alliance

Recommended:

Johnathan Zittrain, The Future of the Internet and How to Stop It, Chapter 6, “The Lessons of WikiPedia”. "http://yupnet.org/zittrain/archives/16"


**Wednesday, March 24.**

Shirky deconstruction Wiki Exercise

Clay Shirky, *Here Comes Everybody*, ch. 10, 11, epilogue

**Week 10: Genocide Prevention**

**Networks and Activism (Monday, March 29) Tag: GenPrev**

John Prendergast and John Bagwel, WHY ACTIVISM (STILL) MATTERS FOR SUDAN... AND WHAT YOU CAN DO Enough Project, March 2009

An Anti-Genocide Community: Building the Political Will to End Genocide http://www.netsquared.org/projects/proposals/anti-genocide-community-building-political-will-end-genocide


**Mapping and Policy (Wednesday, April 1)**
Mapping

Matthew Levinger, "Geographic Information Systems Technology as a Tool for Genocide Prevention: The Case of Darfur".


Ushahidi and its implementation in the Congo.

Policy


Background

Policy


Mapping Projects


Week 11: Media, Censorship, and Humanitarian Crisis

China, the Internet and Censorship (Monday, April 5)

Rebecca McKinnon, OSI Forum: The Future of Freedom and Control in the Internet Age (video presentation, first 30 minutes)...
http://www.soros.org/initiatives/fellowship/events/freedom_20090210/

Drezner, Daniel WEIGHING THE SCALES--THE INTERNET'S EFFECT ON STATE-SOCIETY RELATIONS june 2005 latest .pdf

Global Nework Initiative, Documents on Principles, Implementation and Governance,


Mobile Technology, Local Media and Humanitarian Crisis (Wednesday, April 7)

WHEN INFORMATION SAVES LIVES: Engaging Local Media in Humanitarian Crises
Week 12: Media and Public Policy

New Models for Journalism (Monday, April 12)

Rachel Sterne, Ground Report http://www.groundreport.com/


Citizen Media: Fad or the Future of News?” The Rise and Prospects of Hyperlocal Journalism” Jan Schaffer www.jlab.org


Contesting Media Policy (Wednesday, April 14)


Week 13: Copenhagen

New Media in Copenhagen (Monday, April 19)

Standing On The Edge Of The Future: The New Media In Copenhagen http://www.huffingtonpost.com/katherine-goldstein/standing-on-the-edge-of-t_b_399676.html?&just_reloaded=1

Activism 2.0: Creating Casablanca in Copenhagen, The Fresh Air Center http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chrissie-brodigan/activism-20-creating-casa_b_404860.html

Google Wave (Wednesday, April 21)


DN! Danish Police Preemptively Arrest Over 1,000 Protesters
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISougKKt3Uk

Week 14: Twitter Revolutions and Projects

Monday, April 26: Twitter Revolutions? Communications Tech in Moldova & Iran

Moldova

From the New York Times: Protests in Moldova Explode, With Help of Twitter

Evgeny Morozov, Moldova's Twitter revolution is NOT a myth
http://neteffect.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/04/10/moldovas_twitter_revolution_is_not_a_myth

Ethan Zuckerman, "My Heart's in Accra" blog, April 9, 2009 Unpacking “The Twitter Revolution” in Moldova

Kate Brodock, "Moldovan Protests: Was it really a 'Twitter Revolution'?", Digiactive,
http://www.digiactive.org/2009/04/10/moldovan-protests-was-it-really-a-twitter-revolution

Iran

Andrew Sullivan "The Revolution Will Be Tweeted"

Guarav Mishra, Iran's "Twitter Revolution" - myth or reality, WorldFocus,
http://worldfocus.org/blog/2009/06/18/irans-twitter-revolution-myth-or-reality/5869

Douglass Rushkoff, "How Iran's Hackers Killed Big Brother" The Daily Beast,

Recent Debate:

Clay Shirty, The Twitter Revolution: more than just a slogan (January 2010)
http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/2010/01/the-twitter-revolution-more-than-just-a-slogan

Eugeny Morozov, Why the internet is failing Iran’s activists (Dec 2009)
http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/2010/01/why-the-internet-is-failing-irans-activists

Background:

"The Role of Digital Networked Technologies in the Ukrainian Orange Revolution" Berkman Center,

Briefing :: Twitter against Tyrants: New Media in Authoritarian Regimes, Helsinki Committee Testimony, [Kyle Parker, Policy Advisor for Eurasia, CSCE moderating, Oct. 22, 2009
http://bit.ly/5d1AtB

Wednesday, April 28: Project and Shirky/Wiki Discussion

Week 15: May 3, Project and Shirky/Wiki Discussion