

INTL 4665: Global Politics and Digital Media¹

Dr. Rongbin Han

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Assistant Professor

(TR, 12:30-1:45; MLC 147)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 15:00-16:00 pm or by appointment (322 Candler Hall)

**** See the instructor if you have a disability that needs classroom accommodations. ****

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to the complicated relationship between digital media and politics in contemporary world. Through the semester, we will examine, with particular focus on the United States and China, how democratic and non-democratic regimes shape the institutions and functions of digital media and how digital media, in a variety of forms, influence domestic politics and foreign relations. We will also discuss a series of important implications of the expansion of new media in democratic, authoritarian and transitioning regimes.

Course Materials (Available in UGA Library or ELC)

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Final Grade Ranges:

	A 93-100	A- 90-92.99
B+ 87-89.99	B 83-86.99	B- 80-82.99
C+ 77-79.99	C 73-76.99	C- 70-72.99
D 60-69.99	F 0-59.99	

Attendance and Participation (20%; Attendance 10%; Participation 10%)

Attend classes regularly. One absence is allowed for ANY reason. Additional absences will need legitimate reasons and documentation (ex. doctor's note). The course is **discussion based**. Please read and reflect upon assigned readings before coming to class. You are also encouraged to participate electronically through our course ELC platform through online discussion.

Presentation and Reflection Essay (15%, 10% for presentation and 5% for reflection essay)

You need to do one 5-minute mini presentation on the date you select. The presentation shall focus on the most important points in the readings and try to stimulate discussion. You can use PowerPoint (preferable 3 slides or less) or handouts, and shall try to engage the class. **The presentation is graded based on how prepared, organized, clear, and interactive it is.** The reflection essay (3 pages, double spaced) is based on your reading and presentation. It shall not be laundry list summary of the readings. Summarize the reading in one page and put more emphasis on critically evaluating the readings and advancing your own arguments. Stay focused rather than picking up many points without any single one of them articulated sufficiently.

Midterm Case Report (20%)

Pick one digital media event/phenomenon that strikes you and write a report (double spaced, maximum 10 pages). Explain the event/phenomenon (what, who, when, how and why) and

¹ The syllabus is a general plan for the course; updates and revisions may be necessary.

highlight the role of digital media—in what ways the new ICTs have made a difference; how are the actors involved taking advantage of the Internet to different degrees? What is the role of big companies and the state in the process? You may pick any topic—Lady Gaga, ISIS, Russian trolls in the presidential election, #MeToo, and so forth. In the report, please explain how you see how digital media has (or has not) changed the socio-political life today. Talk to the instructor if you have questions regarding selection of the topic.

Digital Media Experiment (30%)

You are required to generate at least **three entries of online content** (in any format) on topics such as the readings and ongoing local, national, or global socio-political events. Promote the content online using all the means you feel comfortable. Based on your experience, write a **1500-word (maximum) summary report**. The report should contain the following sections: (1) The experiment goal and experiment design (what do you want to test; how you are going to do it; what is your hypothesized findings); (2) an introduction to the content generation and circulation strategy; (3) the content of the posts (time posted; platform; your presence on the platform, if applicable, and screenshot of or the link to the content); (4) outcomes (reactions in terms of likes, retweets, comments, etc) and findings of the experiment; (5) your reflections.

Final Think Piece (15%)

This is a think piece: Based on course materials and your own experiences, what do you think is the biggest threat or benefit (just pick either threat or benefit, not both) the Internet age has brought about? Explain why you think it is the biggest threat or benefit and what you think we can do about it. It should be 5-page double spaced, though can be slightly longer.

Important Deadlines

<u>September 22nd</u>	<u>Digital Media Experiment online content 1</u>
<u>October 6th</u>	<u>Midterm Case Report Due</u>
<u>October 13th</u>	<u>Digital Media Experiment online content 2</u>
<u>November 5th</u>	<u>Digital Media Experiment online content 3</u>
<u>December 3rd</u>	<u>Summary of Digital Media Experiment due</u>
<u>December 6th</u>	<u>Final Think Piece Due</u>

Grade Dispute:

If you have any questions about your exam grade, you shall report to the instructor **within one week** from the time you receive the grade. You need to present a written appeal explaining why you think your grade should be changed. Please also bear in mind that disputing grade may end up with higher, lower or no change in your grade.

Academic Honesty:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. **Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. Approach the instructor if you are unclear about what is plagiarism.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1

August 14 *Welcome! Course Introduction*

August 16 **Comparative Framework**

Daniel C. Hallin and Paolo Mancini, “*Comparing Media Systems*,” in James Curran and Michael Gurevitch (Eds.), *Mass Media and Society* (Bloomsbury USA, 2005), Chapter 11.

Week 2

August 21 **News Production in the U.S.**

* Lynne Cooke, “A visual convergence of print, television, and the internet: charting 40 years of design change in news presentation,” *New Media & Society* 7:1(2005), 22-48.

August 23 **China: An example of Authoritarian Media System**

* David Shambaugh, “China’s Propaganda System: Institutions, Processes and Efficacy,” *The China Journal* 57 (2007), 25-58.

Week 3

August 28 **Commercialization, Reform and Investigative Journalism**

* Jingrong Tong and Colin Sparks, “Investigative Journalism in China Today,” *Journalism Studies* 10: 3 (2009), 337-352.

Additional Readings:

* Daniela Stockmann and Mary Gallagher, “Remote Control: How the Media Sustain Authoritarian Rule in China,” *Comparative Political Studies* 44:4 (2011), 436-467.

* Zhou Yuezhi, “Watchdogs on Party Leashes? Contexts and implications of investigative journalism in post-Deng China,” *Journalism Studies* 1: 2 (2000), 577-597.

August 30 **Instructor out of town for APSA**

The Digital Era

Week 4

September 4 **History of Social Media**

* Danah Boyd and Nicole Ellison, “Social Network Sites: Definition, History, and Scholarship,” *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* 13:1 (2007), 210–230.

* Tarleton Gillespie, “The Stories Digital Tools Tell,” in John Caldwell and Anna Everett (eds.), *New Media: Theses on Convergence Media and Digital Reproduction* (Routledge, 2003).

September 6 **Introducing Theory**

* Manuel Castells, “A Network Theory of Power,” *International Journal of Communication* 5 (2011), 773-787.

* Yochai Benkler, “Networks of Power, Degrees of Freedom” *International Journal of Communication* 5(2011), 721-755.

Week 5

September 11 **Digital Divide**

* Helen V. Milner, “The Digital Divide: The Role of Political Institutions in Technology Diffusion,” *Comparative Political Studies*, 39:2 (2006), 176-199.

September 13 Network Neutrality

- * Tim Wu and Christopher Yoo, "Keeping the Internet Neutral?: Tim Wu and Christopher Yoo Debate" *Federal Communications Law Journal* 59:3 (2007), 575-592.
- * Rob Frieden, "Keeping the Internet Neutral?: A Response to the Wu-Yoo Debate," *Federal Communications Law Journal* 59:3 (2007), 621-624.
- * Tim Berners-Lee, "Long Live the Web: A Call for Continued Open Standards and Neutrality," *Scientific American Magazine* (December 2010), 80-85.

Week 6

September 18 Governing the Internet

- * David R. Johnson, Susan P. Crawford, and John G. Palfrey, "The Accountable Net: Peer Production of Internet Governance," *Virginia Journal of Law and Technology* 9, no. 97 (2004): 1-33.
- * Michel J. G. van Eeten and Milton Mueller, "Where Is the Governance in Internet Governance?," *New Media & Society* 15, no. 5 (2013): 720-36.
- * Gautham Hagesh, "ICANN 101: Who Will Oversee the Internet?"
<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/03/17/icann-101-who-will-oversee-the-internet/>

September 20 Big Internet Corporations

- # Rebecca MacKinnon, *Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom* (Basics Books), Ch. 8, 9 and 10.
- * Jenna Wortham, "With Twitter, Blackouts and Demonstrations, Web Flexes Its Muscle," *New York Times* (January 19, 2012).
- * Jonathan Weisman, "After an Online Firestorm, Congress Shelves Antipiracy Bills," *New York Times* (January 21, 2012).

Week 7

September 25 Hacking and Hacker Practice

- * E. G. Coleman and A. Golub, "Hacker Practice: Moral Genres and the Cultural Articulation of Liberalism," *Anthropological Theory* 8, no. 3 (2008): 255-77.

September 27 Digital Media and Privacy

- * B. Wessels, "Identification and the Practices of Identity and Privacy in Everyday Digital Communication," *New Media & Society* 14, no. 8 (2012): 1251-68.
- * Danah Boyd and Eszter Hargittai, "Facebook Privacy Settings: Who Cares?," *First Monday* 15, no. 8 (2010).
- * Danah Boyd, "Real Name Policies are an Abuse of Power,"
<http://www.zephoria.org/thoughts/archives/2011/08/04/real-names.html>

Week 8

October 2 Web 2.0

- * Tim O'Reilly, "What Is Web 2.0,"
<http://www.oreilly.com/pub/a/web2/archive/what-is-web-20.html>, September 30, 2005.
- * Urs Gasser and John G. Palfrey, "The Strategic Tool Of Working With Others (Or Not)," *Fast Company*, July 17, 2012,
<http://www.fastcompany.com/1842884/strategic-tool-working-others-or-not>.
- * Andrew Lih, *The Wikipedia Revolution: How a Bunch of Nobodies Created the World's Greatest Encyclopedia* (Hyperion Books, 2009), chap. 5, 7, 8.

October 4 Digital Media and News Industry

- * Paul Starr, "Goodbye to the Age of Newspapers (Hello to a New Era of Corruption)," *New Republic* (March 4, 2009).
- * Pew Research Center, "Newspapers Face a Challenging Calculus," (February 26, 2009).
- * *Economist*, "Social Media: The people formerly known as the audience," (July 7th, 2011).
- * Joshua Braun and Tarleton Gillespie, "Hosting the public discourse, hosting the public: When online news and social media converge," *Journalism Practice* 5:4 (2011), 383-398.
- * Noah Shachtman, "How Andrew Breitbart Hacks the News" *Wired Magazine* (March 2010).

Additional Readings:

- * Daniel Roth, "The Answer Factory: Demand Media and the Fast, Disposable, and Profitable as Hell Media Model." *Wired Magazine* (October 2009).
- * David Simon, "Build the Wall," *Columbia Journalism Review* (July 21, 2009).

Week 9

October 9 Digital Media and Governance

- * Markus Prior, "News vs. Entertainment: How Increasing Media Choice Widens Gaps in Political Knowledge and Turnout," *American Journal of Political Science* 49:3 (2005), 577-592.
- * R. Michael Alvarez, et al., "Voting Advice Applications: How Useful and for Whom?" *Journal of Information Technology & Politics* 11:1 (2014), 82-101.
- * Alex Hern, "Cambridge Analytica: How Did It Turn Clicks into Votes," *Guardian* (May 6, 2018), <https://goo.gl/9sjYfh>

Additional Reading:

- * Cass Sunstein, "The Daily We: Is the Internet Really a Blessing for Democracy," *Boston Review* (June 1, 2001).

October 11 E-Government

- * John C. Bertot, Paul T. Jaeger, and Justin M. Grimes, "Using ICTs to Create a Culture of Transparency: E-Government and Social Media as Openness and Anti-Corruption Tools for Societies," *Government Information Quarterly* 27, no. 3 (2010): 264–71.
- * K. Hartford, "Dear Mayor: Online Communications with Local Governments in Hangzhou and Nanjing," *China Information* 19, no. 2 (July 1, 2005): 217–60.

Week 10

October 16 Digital Media and Contentious Politics

- * Clay Shirky, "The Political Power of Social Media," *Foreign Affairs* (January 2011), 28-41.
- * Lance Bennett and Alexandra Segerberg, "The Logic of Connective Action: Digital Media and the Personalization of Contentious Politics," *Information, Communication and Society* 15:5(2012), 739-768.

October 18 Arab Spring and beyond

- * Malcolm Gladwell, "Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted," *New Yorker* (October 4, 2010).
- * Lev Grossman, "Iran Protests: Twitter, the Medium of the Movement," *Time* (June 17, 2009).
- * Cory Doctorow, "We Need a Serious Critique of Net Activism," *The Guardian* (January 25, 2011).

* William Lafi Youmans, and Jillian C. York, "Social Media and the Activist Toolkit: User Agreements, Corporate Interests, and the Information Infrastructure of Modern Social Movements," *Journal of Communication* 62:2(2012), 315–29.

Week 11

October 23 Cyber Politics in Strong Authoritarian Regimes: Cyber Activism

* Ashley Esarey and Xiao Qiang, "Political Expression in the Chinese Blogosphere: Below the Radar," *Asian Survey* 48:5(2008), 752-772.

* Florian Toepfl, "Managing public outrage: Power, scandal, and new media in contemporary Russia," *New Media & Society* 13:8 (2011), 1301-1319.

Yuen Yuen Ang, "Authoritarian Restraints on Online Activism Revisited: Why 'I-Paid-A-Bribe' Worked in India but Failed in China," *Comparative Politics*, 47:1(2013), 21–40.

October 25 Cyber Politics in Strong Authoritarian Regimes: State Responses

* Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret Roberts, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression," *American Political Science Review* (2013), 1-18.

* Rongbin Han, "Manufacturing Consent in Cyberspace: China's 'Fifty-Cent Army'," *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, 44:2(2015), 105–134

* Neil MacFarquhar, "Russia Quietly Tightens Reins on Web with 'Bloggers Law'," *New York Times*, May 7, 2014.

Week 12

October 30 Cyber Politics in China: Media and Political Attitudes

* Lei Ya-Wen, "The Political Consequences of the Rise of the Internet: Political Beliefs and Practices of Chinese Netizens," *Political Communication* 28:3 (2011), 291-322.

Additional readings:

* Jiangnan Zhu, Lu Jie, and Shi Tianjian, "When Grapevine News Meets Mass Media: Different Information Sources and Popular Perceptions of Government Corruption in Mainland China," *Comparative Political Studies* 46:8 (2012), 920-946.

November 1 Cyber Politics in China: Implications on Political Change?

* Jonathan Hassid, "Safety Valve or Pressure Cooker? Blogs in Chinese Political Life," *Journal of Communications* 62 (2012), 212-230.

* Wenfang Tang and Shanto Iyengar, "The Emerging Media System in China: Implications for Regime Change," *Political Communication* 28:3 (2011), 263-267.

Media and Politics beyond National Borders

Week 13

November 6 (Tuesday) Freedom and Security: Wiki Leaks, NSA, and Snowden

* Yochai Benkler, "A Free Irresponsible Press: Wikileaks and the Battle over the Soul of the Networked Fourth Estate," *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* 46:2 (2011), 311-397. [Read 311-350 only]

* Lisa Lynch, "We're Going to Crack the World Open: WikiLeaks and the Future of Investigative Reporting," *Journalism Practice*, 4: 3 (2010), 309-318.

* Edward Snowden entry of Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Snowden]

November 8 Cyber Warfare?

- # Martin C. Libicki, *Cyberdeterrence and Cyberwar* (RAND Corporation), Ch. 6 and 7.
- * Kenneth Geers, "Cyberspace and the changing nature of warfare," *SC Magazine* (August 27, 2008).
- * Dai Xu, "The Only Type of Warfare That Could Destroy China," *Chinascopie* 67 (2014), 24-25.
- * Michael Schmidt, "Chinese Hackers Extending Reach to Smaller U.S. Agencies, Officials Say," *New York Times* (July 16, 2014).

Week 14

November 13 Terrorism in the Digital Age

- # Michele Zanini and Sean J.A. Edwards, "The Networking of Terror in the Information Age," in John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt (eds.), *Networks and Netwars* (Rand Corporation 2001), Ch. 2.
- # Phil Williams, "Transnational Criminal Networks," in John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt (eds.), *Networks and Netwars* (Rand Corporation 2001), Ch. 3.
- Additional Readings:*
- # Dorothy E. Denning, "Activism, Hactivism, and Cyberterrorism: The Internet as a Tool for Influencing Foreign Policy," in John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt (eds.), *Networks and Netwars* (Rand Corporation 2001), Ch. 8.

November 15 Digital Media and Transnational Social Movements

- # Luther P. Gerlach, "The Structure of Social Movements: Environmental Activism and Its Opponents," in John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt (eds.), *Networks and Netwars* (Rand Corporation 2001), Ch. 9.
- * Kony 2012 entry of Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kony_2012]

Week 15 Thanks Giving, No Class

Week 16 Themed Debate and Discussions

November 27: Is technological development a blessing or an ill for human society?

November 29: Findings of the Digital Media Experiment

Digital Media Case Report Due– December 6th (15: 00)