INTL 4666E Politics of Cyber Security

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***** Subject to Updates *****

***** Please email the instructor or use the Debug link to report broken links or other problems you encounter *****

Course Overview and Objectives
Cyber security has become an increasingly critical component of public life today. As a non-traditional security issue, it now affects every one of us as individuals as well as members of a community, a society, and a nation. Moreover, ongoing debates such as those surrounding the Facebook data crisis and foreign influences over the past U.S. presidential election manifest that cyber security is an issue that may jeopardize the liberal democratic institutions and values. This online course will introduce to students the basics about cyber security not from the technical or managerial perspective, but from the humanistic, social, and political angles. There are three primary objectives: (1) By examining cyber security issues from a socio-political perspective, the course hopes to generate awareness among students about the implications of technological development and the future of human society as a whole; (2) By surveying the potential socio-economic and political risks of our networked society from a broad perspective, the course intends to foster a humanistic, societal, and political understanding of cyber security, which in turn prepares students to engage the issue from less technological, but more political and policy points of view; and (3) By preparing students to engage cyber security issues from the political and policy perspectives, the course helps students to develop the ability to communicate across the divide between technological and policy communities.

Accessing Course
Course materials will be hosted primarily on eLC, though I will make use of other online tools for the purpose of communicating with you. And precisely because of the online nature of this course, I’d issue the following warning message:

If you are traveling, make sure that you have sufficient Internet access time and unfettered access to the course site hosted on eLC and relevant services.

You can access the readings by directly clicking the links on the syllabus. But if the URLs do not work, you should be able to find most readings in the Content/Reading folder. Get in touch with the instructor if you still have difficulty.

Office Hour & Discussion Session
I plan to host virtual office hours and discussion sessions via Zoom between May 14 and May 20 during weekdays (I will be traveling to China from May 21 onward, and will not be able to hold regular office hours. I will keep you posted should I figure out a secure way of doing it). Below is the link: https://zoom.us/j/95645921867?pwd=NIVYaV1T0YzODRMeXhuaDZia29iQTo9

Meeting ID: 956 4592 1867
Passcode: 784118

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Clarification: Attendance of the Zoom office hours and discussion meetings is one of the indicators of your participation. Should you have difficulty attending them, you need to more actively engage in other forms of participation to make it up.

Prohibition on Recording Lectures. In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they:

- Will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course.
- Understand that faculty members have copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way.
- Understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study.
- Will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they will not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials.
- Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester.
- Understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws.
Final Grade Ranges:

- **A+**: 93-100
- **A**: 90-92.99
- **A-**: 89.99-90
- **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+**: 67-69.99
- **D**: 60-69.99
- **F**: 0-59.99

Assignments & Deadlines (links to the Assignment Dropbox or the Discussions)

1. **Reading Responses** *(Due on your selected date; though who pick the first week dates get a two-day extension) (15%)*: Write one response paper (about 4 pages double spaced) based on the assigned readings of the date you choose (movie days excluded). The response may take a variety of forms, but should include a summary of basic ideas and arguments of ALL the readings, and more importantly your own questions, comments, and critical reflections. Feel free to draw on materials outside assigned readings. Please sign up for this assignment by picking the date. Please keep a record for yourself so that you don't miss the deadline.

2. **Video Recommendations** *(Due May 25) (15%)*: Find a video such a TED talk, movie, TV series relevant to what we discuss in this class that is not already included in the syllabus or course modules. Write a brief introduction to the material (by who, on what, how to access, etc) and then explain how it is relevant to the themes we discuss in this class as well as why you want to recommend it to the rest of the class. **Please post your recommendation on the discussion forum AND comment on each other's recommendation.**

3. **Movie Reviews** *(Due June 9) (10%)* We will have movie weeks. You are expected to select one movie and write a review. The review shall be about 600-1000 words, providing a review of the stories (plot) and a critical analysis of how it is relevant to any themes covered in the class. As we are not meeting on campus, you will need to figure out a way to watch the movies on your own. **Please post your movie review on the discussion forum AND engage each other.** You may also pick another movie (or a TV series, an episode of a TV series) to review on your own. In this case, check with the instructor if the movie you pick is relevant. The following titles will fit: Minority Report, Person of Interest (TV series) or some episodes of Black Mirror.

4. **Final Think Piece** *(Due June 9) (30%)*: This is your final. It should be about 10 pages (double spaced). You have to focus on the following topic when writing the think piece: Based on course materials and your own experiences, what do you think is the single most grave cybersecurity concern we face today (so do not make a very general statement and say everything is a cybersecurity concern or there are multiple cybersecurity concerns)? Explain why you think so and what you think we can do about it. Make sure you directly answer the question and make a clear argument; substantiate your argument with solid empirical evidence and sound reasoning; critically engage course materials while making a balanced argument. Also make sure you organize the paper in a coherent and smooth way. Pay attention to the details and avoid typos, grammatical mistakes, and citation errors.

5. **Final quiz** *(10%; available whole day on June 9)*. You have **15 minutes to complete the quiz once you start it.** Please make sure that you’ve gone through all course modules before taking the quiz. The quiz requires Respondus LockDown Browser, which may take a few minutes to install. For instructions, click here. If you are registered with DRC and needs extended time, please get in touch with the instructor as soon as you can.

6. **Participation** *(20%)* For participation, there are three items. First, you are expected do ALL the readings and the course modules. Second, please engage in discussion via ELC for each module (you can directly respond to the discussion questions and/or react to other students; you can also initiate new discussion threads; your grade will depend on the frequency, quality, and effectiveness of your participation; responding to at least 12 of all the discussion questions with decent quality to receive a grade of B or higher for this item alone). And third, please attend the virtual office hours and or discussion sessions to interact with the instructor and other students. Note that if you are unable to attend the office hours or discussion sessions, you shall try to make it up by more actively participating in other forms that may enhance your learning experiences.

Since many of you have asked about citation style, please follow Chicago citation style (either "author-date + reference" or "full footnote": please be consistent).

Due to the nature of the course (the large amount of writing assignments), not all feedback to your assignments will be publicized on ELC (I will try). Please contact the instructor if you need more detailed feedback.

**A Few Useful Tips**

1. Please note down the deadlines for assignments and set up reminders. While I will try my best to remind you, it is your responsibility to meet the deadlines and submit assignments in time.

2. The discussion forum will be closed on the final day, since after that the grading process starts. So remember to participate before that.
3. If you need an extension with a legitimate reason, it is always better to inform the instructor first.
4. If you have already missed the deadline for some unexpected reason, submit the assignment as soon as you can and then inform the instructor. Do not wait for the instructor’s approval to submit a late assignment.

Manner of Online Interaction (netiquette):
1. Constructive criticism only. You know the difference. Help your classmates develop their thoughts, don’t shut them out.
2. Be polite. We can’t see your face or hear the tone of your voice, and you can’t write an addendum to an offensive message you accidentally sent and have that addendum arrive first. Be careful and polite.
3. Don’t take it personally but do take it professionally. Read what others are saying about what you posted not about who you are. Post back about what they posted not about who they are.
4. Build on your classmates’ posts. Posting “I agree!” or “me, too” is usually uninformative for others. Posting the insights or new thoughts you had while reading someone else’s post is much better.

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. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

No Further Distribution of Course Material
All video and audio recordings of lecturers and class meetings, provided by the instructors, are for educational use by students in this class only. They are available only through eLC for this course and are not to be copied, shared, or distributed. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not enrolled in the class, or uploaded to other online environments. If the instructor plans any other uses for the recordings beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. Classroom technology will be set up to record the instructor as well as the whiteboard and slides, but unless otherwise noted will only capture student voices, not student faces. Video and audio recordings by students are not permitted beyond the class unless the student has received prior permission from the instructor. Any sharing, distribution, and/or uploading of these recordings outside of the parameters of the class is prohibited. This also applies to the recording of Zoom meetings.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:
- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit https://sco.uga.edu. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (https://www.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) or crisis support (https://www.uga.edu/info/emergencies).
- If you need help managing stress, anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (https://www.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Topics and Modules

1: Introduction
* The Syllabus

Suggested:
2: Fundamentals about the Cyber Society

* Wikipedia, "Internet."
* Catherine Rampell, “Our politicians have no idea how the Internet works,” The Washington Post (August 21, 2018).
* John Boitnott, “Why Silicon Valley Income Inequality is Just a Preview of What’s to Come for the Rest of the U.S.,” Inc. (October 18, 2018).

Suggested:
* Khan Academy, “Internet 101.” [Strongly recommended]
* Carol Hand, How the Internet Changed History (Minneapolis, MN: Abdo Publishing, 2016), eBook available via UGA library

3: Sources of Cyber Threats

* CSIS, "Significant Cyber Incidents Since 2006."

4: Privacy & Personal Data Security


Suggested:
* John Oliver, “Government Surveillance: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver,” HBO.

5: Living Networked

Social Media Pressure

* Paul Miller, “I'm still here: back online after a year without the internet,” The Verge (May 1, 2013).

**Cyberbullying & Online Harassment**
* StopBullying, “Cyberbully.”

**In the Name of Love**
* Tasha Robinson, “Black Mirror’s Arkangel Misses Out on So Many Story Opportunities,” The Verge (Jan. 8, 2018).

**Suggested:**
* Black Mirror (Season 3 Episode 1): NoseDive
* Black Mirror (Season 4 Episode 2): Arkangel

**6: Movie Day**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY (2013)

**7: Cyber Security & Corporations**
* Neri Zilber, “Hackers for Hire,” Foreign Policy, no. 230 (Fall 2018): 61-64.

Also: quickly re-read:
* CSIS, “Significant Cyber Incidents Since 2006.”

**Suggested:**
* Oliver Burkeman, "IBM 'dealt directly with Holocaust organisers,'" The Guardian (March 29, 2002).
* More technical details regarding the Target hack, see Xiaokui Shu et al, “Breaking the Target: An Analysis of Target Data Breach and Lessons Learned.”


**8: Movie Day**

*Documentaries/Movies: THE SOCIAL DILEMMA (2020)*

**9: Regulation Challenges**
* Joseph S. Nye, Jr., “The Regime Complex for Managing Global Cyber Activities,” Global Commission on IT
* Gideon Lichfield, "Facebook's ex security boss: Asking Big Tech to police hate speech is 'a dangerous path'" MIT Technology Review (October 23, 2018).
10: National Security & Cyberwarfare

Suggested (assigned previously):
* CSIS, “Significant Cyber Incidents Since 2006.”

11: Cyber Terrorism
* Paul Tassi, “How ISIS Terrorist May Have Used PlayStation 4 To Discuss And Plan Attacks [Updated],” Forbes (November 14, 2015).

Suggested:
* John Cassidy, "It's Time to Confront the Threat of Right-Wing Terrorism," The New Yorker (March 16, 2019).

12: Digital Authoritarianism (China as an Example)

Suggested:
# Rongbin Han, Contesting Cyberspace in China: Online Expression and Authoritarian Resilience (Columbia University Press, 2018).

13: Digital Challenges toward Democracy
* Alex Hern, “Cambridge Analytica: How Did It Turn Clicks into Votes,” Guardian (May 6, 2018).
* Adam Rawnsley, ”Right-Wing Media Outlets Duped by a Middle East Propaganda Campaign,” The Daily Beast (June 7, 2020).
* Peter Kafka, ”Obama: The internet is ‘the single biggest threat to our democracy,'” Vox (November 16, 2020).

**Suggested:**

# Helmus et al, Russian Social Media Influence (Rand Corporation, 2018).

### 14: The Future of Humanity

* Samantha Cole, “There is No Tech Solution to Deepfakes,” Motherboard (August 14, 2018).
* Peter Holley, “Soon, the most beautiful people in the world may no longer be human,” The Washington Post (August 8, 2018).
* Mike Brown, “Elon Musk Reveals the One Question He Would Ask a Human-Level A.I.,” Inverse (April 15, 2019).
* John Naughton, “The Goal is to Automate Us’: Welcome to the Age of Surveillance Capitalism,” Guardian (January 20, 2019).

**Suggested:**


### 15: Movie Day/Reflection Day


* Also recommended:
  
  The Matrix Reloaded
  The Matrix Revolutions
  Person of Interest