



Course Syllabus: **Internet & Cybersecurity Politics**
College of Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
POLS 4933 Section 101
Fall 2021, TR 12:30pm-1:50pm PY 209

Instructor: Rebekah Dowd
Office: O'Donohoe 204
Office hours: Virtually Tues/Thurs.10-11:45am; Monday afternoons 2-3:30 pm
Office phone: (940) 397-4341
E-mail: rebekah.dowd@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course examines the interaction between international politics, the Internet, and cybersecurity through the lens of political science. Using a multi-levels of analysis approach, students are taught about the internet infrastructure and governance, the types of actors involved in politicization of cyberspace, the importance of the global data economy, and the ways in which civil society functions online.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the formation of the internet infrastructure, and the early role of US dominance vs. later challenges to American hegemony
- Articulate the role of states, governments, and international organizations in the debate over cyber sovereignty and the application and creation of international law and human rights norms over internet content and controls
- Describe the various states and non-state actors involved in cyber defense, espionage, and intellectual property theft
- Define the global data economy, and outline how large firms and social media companies have created a surveillance business model
- Discuss the ways in which civil society utilizes the internet to practice free speech, informational diffusion; be familiar with the concept of internet access inequality and the socioeconomic impact of such inequality

Textbook & Instructional Materials

1. *Governing Cyberspace: Behavior, Power and Diplomacy*, edited by Dennis Broeders and Bibi van den Berg, Rowman and Littlefield Publishing, 2020, ISBN: 978-1-78661-495-7.

2. *Cybersecurity: Politics, Governance and Conflict in Cyberspace*, by Damien Van Puyvelde and Aaron F. Brantly, Polity Books, 2019, ISBN: 978-1-509-52810-3.
3. Additional readings posted as PDFs in D2L.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Plagiarism also includes using content you have produced for other classes or assignments, without prior approval from all instructors involved to “recycle” this material in this Global Studies class. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [MSU Student Conduct](#)

Grading

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Percent of Total Grade</i>
Participation	20
Essay Exam 1	15
Essay Exam 2	15
Essay Exam 3	15
Written Paper	20
Presentation	15
TOTAL	100

Grading Scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Participation (20%):

Class meets twice a week. Participation is based on attendance AND creation of a discussion outline.

Attendance: I expect you to talk during class, engaging with me as the instructor, and your fellow students. Science has shown we learn best by asking and discussing our questions about issues. I encourage questions, dialogue, and open debate, just do not monopolize class discussions. I randomly take attendance at 5 time points during the term.

Discussion Outline: At the beginning of the term, each student will choose to “lead” the reading discussion for two dates/topics. When it is your date, you will create an outline of the reading for a class, and create 3 discussion questions for use during the class, formatted into a 1-pg summary. I will explain more about during class. A rubric will be posted to D2L. You will need to upload this by 11:59PM the night before your assigned dates.

Exams (15% each):

These are essay question-based, and will ask you to explain and apply the concepts we have discussed in class and in the readings. Each exam will feature material introduced since the last exam only. You will receive the questions two days before the exam, and the exams will take place during class periods on the following dates:

- Exam 1: Thursday, September 16 – in class
- Exam 2: Thursday, October 28 – in class
- Exam 3: Dec. 1-9, - ONLINE

Written Paper (20%)

Each student will pick a topic regarding a particular internet policy or actor. You will then produce a summary paper on this topic, using a template I provide. I will also teach about the paper formatting in class. The paper sections are submitted as follows:

1. *Topic and/or country, outline, potential bibliography*, 5%, due Friday, **September 10**, 11:59 PM.
2. *Rough draft* (the full paper, 12-point font, double-spaced, 10 pages not counting bibliography). 5%, due Friday, **October 15**, 11:59 PM.
3. *Final draft* (the edited paper, with changes made after I returned feedback to you). 10%, due Friday, **November 12**, 11:59PM.

Presentation (15%)

You will choose or be assigned a date to present on your paper topic near the end of term. Your presentation will be a combined PPT slide presentation and your live explanation of the findings of your paper. Slides will be uploaded to D2L by 11:59PM the night before your presentation date.

Electronic Devices:

Laptop computers and tablets are allowed for the purposes of taking notes and completing in-class assignments. Cellphone use is prohibited unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Please mute all electronic devices before coming into class.

Many assignments in this course will be conducted in D2L. Tests and exams may utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor for testing. In order to install these programs, you will need the following:

- A desktop computer or laptop other than a Chromebook. NOTE: Chromebooks DO NOT WORK with the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor.
- Apple iPads may be used for quizzes and exams, but these are not advised for any assignment with a written component.

- Mobile phones and similar devices are not compatible with the required programs.
- A working webcam on the computing device used for the exam.
- Microsoft Office or a compatible program for written assignments. Access to Microsoft Office 365 available through the Office 365 for Students on the Microsoft website.

Please note: a limited number of webcams and laptops with cameras are available for check-out through the MSU Texas Moffett Library.

Office Hours:

Office hours are an open invitation to discuss with me anything of concern related to the course. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, I will have virtual office hours during this term, unless special arrangements are made. See the top of the syllabus for the times in which I am “virtually” in my office. To speak with me during the posted times, just click the office hours link on D2L. If this time presents a conflict for your schedule, send me an email using the address at the top of this syllabus and I will schedule a virtual Zoom appointment with you.

Communication:

The best way to reach me is by email. I will make all attempts to answer emails within 48 business hours unless it is over a holiday break. You must check your email listed as the primary account in your Banner information, as I will use this address to communicate with you outside of class. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule and changes, attendance, and the gradebook. There may be some online office hours announced through D2L, if they vary from the office hours posted above. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information.

Attendance Policy:

This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Fall 2021. Per state mandates, and the decision of MSU administrators, mask use and social distancing is not currently mandated for classrooms. However, face mask use is welcome and encouraged by me as the instructor, in accordance with CDC guidelines, Section 3, found here [CDC Guidelines for Higher Education](#). In the event of increased incidence of COVID-19 active cases that results in MSU moving back to protective measures, I will notify you through an announcement on D2L. As the course instructor of record, I reserve the right to move the course online, either partially, or in full, in the event of a personal emergency that prohibits me from delivering the course fully in-person. More instructions will be given at that time.

I am required by the university to report failure to attend and complete assignments. I will take in-person attendance on 5 random days during the semester. If you are absent on those dates, nor have you provided a legal or medical excuse for non-participation, your attendance grade will be marked as absent for that date. See the grading policy and breakdown of your grade calculations for more details.

Disability Accommodations:

Any student having an education disability plan on file with the university needs to inform me within the first week of the class so I make the appropriate arrangements to accommodate your situation. In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Clery Act Notification:

Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature; sex or gender discrimination violate University policies. Any person experiencing such behavior may receive confidential support from the Counseling Center. Counseling Center staff will hold what you share in strict confidence. If you disclose sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex or gender discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) to me, I as the instructor of this course am required to forward such information to the MSU Title IX office. This should not prevent you from speaking to me should you wish to do so, but know that what you tell me in this area cannot be held confidential, but must be shared with the Title IX office.

Policy on Missed Work

There will be no makeup for the reading quizzes. Makeup credit for exams will only be given in cases of legitimate and documented emergencies such as doctors excuses, college coach-provided travel schedules, or legal court attendance. Do not miss these assignments unless there is a real emergency. All makeup work must be requested by email within 5 days of the regular due date, except for the last exam; this must be taken on time to avoid missing final grade requirements set by the registrar's office.

Note: For the research paper sections, there is no makeup for the first sections (*Thesis, Research Question, Rough Draft*). For the *Final Draft*, you will lose 5 points off your grade for each day late. No papers turned in past five days after the due date will be graded, but instead you will earn a zero for that portion of the paper. Any papers with ANY plagiarism receive an automatic zero; you cannot revise and resubmit for any form of credit. I strongly encourage students to have their papers reviewed by the writing tutors at TASP.

Withdrawal by midpoint:

Please note, the semester's midpoint is **October 25**. **This is the last Day for "W"**. Students can **withdraw from the class up to this point and** receive a W for the class. However, there is a limited number of W's a student can receive over their academic career. **Drops after this date will receive grades of "F."** If you intend to withdraw from a course, you must do so yourself. If you are still on the roll when I have to assign grades and you haven't done any passing work, then you will fail. Also note, I have to report to the university whether students have attended class, and how regularly you attend. If you have never attended this class when I have to submit my report to the university, or you have stopped attending, it is possible that the university will reduce your financial assistance. Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L):

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a required part of this course, and it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course

information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact technical support and [Submit a Problem Report](#) for help. I do not post my PowerPoint notes to D2L, nor do I provide study guides for the exams in D2L. Students are expected to attend class and take their own notes to use for study purposes.

Class Behavior Policies

In order to make this a successful class, it is important that we create an environment where everyone has an opportunity to learn. This includes in-person and online classes. **During class periods, no cellphones are allowed to be out and visible.** Laptops may be used ONLY for the purpose of taking notes. Please put away all headphones/earbuds/Airpods as well. You should know that the university policy on disruptive behavior in class applies. Disruptive class behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving personal phone calls or pages (text messaging) during class, leaving and entering class frequently in the absence of notice to instructor of illness or other extenuating circumstances, and persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. For purposes of this policy, it may also be considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of class. If your behavior is disruptive to other students or the instructor, this will violate University guidelines, and you will be reported to administrative authorities.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Course Schedule:

You are expected to complete all readings BEFORE the class date listed.

Class Date	Reading Assignment	Due Date/Time
Tuesday, Aug. 24	Introduce course, review syllabus, review levels of analysis and IR theories	
Thursday, Aug. 26 – Internet Infrastructure & Governance	Chapter 1: The expanding scope of cybersecurity (p. 6-23), By Damien Van Puyvelde and Aaron F. Brantly, in <i>Cybersecurity: Politics, Governance, and Conflict in Cyberspace</i> .	
Tuesday, Aug. 31 – <i>Who governs the internet?</i>	Chapters 2 and 3 from, <i>Who Controls the Internet</i> , by Goldsmith & Wu, 2008 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Sept. 2	Chapter 2- “Internet Governance” in <i>Governing the Internet: The Emergence of an International Regime</i> , by Marcus Franda, 2001 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Monday, September 6	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY	

Tuesday, Sept. 7	“Geopolitics of Internet Control”, by Ronald Deibert, <i>Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics</i> , Chapter 23) – <i>separate PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Sept. 9– Cyber Control Norms	Chapter 2, “International Law and International Cyber Norms: A Continuum?” in <i>Governing Cyberspace</i> , by Broeders and van den Berg	Part 1 of paper due, Friday, Sept. 10, 11:59PM
Tuesday, Sept. 14	Hurel, Louise Marie and Lobato, Luisa, Unpacking Cybernorns: Private Companies as Norms Entrepreneurs, 2018 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Sept. 16	Essay Exam 1	
Tuesday, Sept. 21 - Internet as a Tool of Multiple Actors – Redefining conflict space	Chapter 3, <i>The Virtual Weapon and International Order</i> , by Lucas Kello, 2017 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Sept. 23 – <i>Who is to blame?</i>	“Attributing Cyber Attacks”, by Rid & Buchanan, <i>Journal of Strategic Studies</i> , 2015 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Tuesday, Sept. 28 – <i>Non-state actors and cyber crime</i>	Chapter 7: Non-state threats: from cybercrime to terrorism (p.105-122), in <i>Cybersecurity: Politics, Governance and Conflict in Cyberspace</i> , by Purvedle and Brantly	
Thursday, Sept. 30 – <i>Digital espionage</i>	China’s Cyberespionage: The National Security Distinction and US Diplomacy”, <i>The Diplomat</i> , 2015 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Tuesday, Oct. 5 – <i>Cyber intellectual property theft</i>	“Globalizing the Logic of Openness: Open Source Software and the Global Governance of Intellectual Property”, by Christopher May, <i>Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics</i> , Chapter 26, <i>book PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Oct. 7 – <i>Cyber diplomacy</i>	André Barrinha & Thomas Renard (2017), “Cyber-diplomacy: the making of an international society in the digital age”, <i>Global Affairs</i> , 3:4-5, 353-364 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Tuesday, Oct. 12 – <i>How to quantify cyber attacks</i>	“Classifying Cyber Events”, by Harry and Gallagher, <i>Journal of Information Warfare</i> , 2018 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Oct. 14 – Global Data Firms/Digital Economy	Chapter 1: “Rise of the Citizen User”, in <i>The Information Trade</i> , 2020, by Alexis Wichowski – <i>PDF online</i>	Part 2 of paper due Friday, Oct. 15, 11:59PM
Tuesday, Oct. 19 – <i>Data Brokerage Profit Models</i>	“Big other: surveillance capitalism and the prospects of an information civilization”” by	

	Shoshana Zuboff, <i>Journal of Information Technology</i> , 2015 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Oct. 21- <i>Protecting digital privacy</i>	<i>Protecting Privacy in Surveillance Societies</i> , by David Flaherty, 1989, Introduction (p. 1-16), and Chapter 25 (U.S. Model, p. 305-320) – <i>PDF online</i>	
Monday, Oct. 25 – <i>Digital Currency</i>	Cryptocurrencies & The Challenges of Global Governance, by Garry Jacobs, 2018 – <i>PDF online</i> OR Philosophy, Politics, and Economics of Cryptocurrency I: Money Without State ¹ Andrew M. Bailey, Bradley Rettler, & Craig Warmke, 2021- <i>PDF online</i> NOTE: OCTOBER 25 is semester midpoint; last day to withdraw; must be done by 4pm.	
Tuesday, Oct. 26 – <i>Stock manipulation and the internet</i>	CNN Business Article Jan 2021	
Thursday, Oct. 28	Essay Exam 2	
Tuesday, Nov. 2 – <i>The Internet and Civil Society</i>	<i>The Real Cyber War: The Political Economy of Internet Freedom</i> , 2015, by Powers & Jablonski, Chapter 1, “Information Freedom and U.S. Foreign Policy”, p. 27-49 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Nov. 4 – <i>Social Media and protest mobilization</i>	“Facebook Helped Me Do It: Understanding the EuroMaiden Protester ‘Tool-Kit’”, by Olga Onuch, <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i> , April 2015 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Tuesday, Nov. 9 – <i>Digital inequality</i>	“The Digital Divide: The Role of Political Institutions in Technology Diffusion”, by Helen V. Milner, <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> , March 2006 – <i>PDF online</i>	
Thursday, Nov. 11 – <i>MNCs and the Internet</i>	“Metaphoric Reinforcement of the Virtual Fence: Factors Shaping the Political economy of Property in Cyber Space”, by Gandy, Jr. & Farrall, <i>Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics</i> , Chapter 25 - <i>book</i> <i>PDF online</i>	Part 3/Final section of paper due Friday, Nov. 12, 11:59PM
Tuesday, Nov. 16	TBD	
Thursday, Nov. 18	TBD	
Tuesday, Nov. 23	Presentation Group 1	

Wednesday-Friday, November 24-26	<i>Thanksgiving break, No classes</i>	
Tuesday, Nov. 30	Presentation Group 2	
Thursday, Dec. 2	Presentation Group 3	
Thursday, Dec. 9	Exam 3 – ONLINE – open Dec. 1 at 12 am-Dec. 9 at 1pm	