Description and Objectives

The Internet pervades American life and increasingly structures the ways people work and socialize around the globe. As we adopt digital media and use them to create new forms of cultural expression, we also raise a host of new social and policy questions. This course uses STS frameworks to explore the history, social aspects, and policy issues surrounding the Internet. Weekly readings and discussion will highlight a variety of topics including the origins of the Internet, comparisons of Internet use in other cultures, debates over social media, and the Internet as a force for democracy in the Arab Spring and beyond. A portion of class time will be dedicated to student-driven team research projects. Students will practice critical thinking, writing, research, and presentation skills.

Required Books (in the order we will read them)


All other required articles and book chapters will be available as PDFs from the course Scholar site.