The Chip and the Chimp: Governing Machine and Human Behaviors in the Digital Age

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Office Hours in Founders Hall 615
Monday 10am-12pm

Course Credit 1.5 hours

Course Description

The course will examine the growing need for policy solutions that respond to new technologies being introduced in societies and within governments.

Participants will follow the progress of the digital age from the development of new technologies and their configurations into new innovations. The focus will shift to observations of human behavioral changes that result from these new enabling devices. The inadequacies of current organizational and infrastructure designs will be examined. The entire chain of digital and globalist evolution will then be examined with an eye toward identifying the very challenging need for attendant policies regarding the use and their implications.

Participants will look at the challenge of governing technologies whose implications and impacts are not yet fully understood and grappling with the dilemma of the speed of technology outpacing the speed of government.

The need for safety nets for those left behind the progress of technology and for those that do not have access to the new technologies will be discussed. Alternatively, the problem of the government being in the way of technological progress and the difficulty of governing in a time of uncertainty will complete the focus on the challenges of governance. Techniques to police the abuse of technologies and prevent their misuse to create rigged systems and undermine efficient market forces will be discussed.
Next participants will focus on the impact of technologies for the workplace and the need for new organizational and infrastructure models.

Profiles of the impact of technologies on constellation of stakeholders are surveyed and examined in the context of the tensions and dynamics among them, as they ally to develop governance proposals and build opposition to them.

Participants will engage in exercises to develop governance proposals, build coalitions and deal with conflicts among stakeholders to develop a further understanding of the processes involved in developing policy, regulations and legislative proposals. Resultant solutions will be reviewed to evaluate their projected outcomes and unintended consequences and whether the solutions will create lasting value or future problems.

Participants will build necessary skills enabling them to develop strategies, plan and sequence key events and conduct activities that relate to technology governance decisions. Finally, exercises for the planning and preparation of high-leveled briefings, key meeting agendas and legislative strategies will be conducted.

Sessions

Are you Ready?  Introduction to the unfolding digital and global revolutions

Swimming with Quarks- Newly enabled human behaviors and the inadequacy of current organizational and infrastructure models.

In the Hall of the Mountain Bandits: The Innovations and the innovative process

The Lotus and the Serpent- Creative Destruction and Societal Disruptions

Runaway Child, Running Wild- Future workplaces and the achievement of optimal human production

Governing the New Systems of the World: The emerging role of government incentives, controls and research in the digital age

The Anthropocene: Governing a wholly reprogrammable world

Final-The Great Debate: Governance in the Digital Age of Globalism

TEXT BOOKS and REQUIRED READING

Whiplash: How to survive our faster future, 2017 Joi Eto and Jeff Howe
Course Requirements

All submissions will be in paper form using double spacing and a 12-point font.

First, participate in discussions. Write a Two-Three-page summary, focused around your views of issues brought up during the session, *(which is due to the instructor at the beginning of the following class. The graded summary will be returned at the beginning of the next class.)*

Second, present your debate assignment during a class session and submit your presentation at the conclusion of the class.

Final Exam project. Compile your class summaries and conclude with a 5-7-page analysis. Include 5-10 conclusions that you have arrived at regarding the impact of technology in the larger context of American Government and strategies that the government may employ to alter the course of technology.

**Grading system**

- **20%** Active Participation in the class sessions
- **30%** Summaries and analysis of the class sessions
- **20%** In-class Debate presentations and outline notes (10 points each)
- **30%** Final Portfolio submission (30 points)
- **10%** Bonus Book Review (Make-up or plus up of Letter Grade)

**Grading**

- 90 to 100 A
- 80 to 89 B
- 70 to 79 C
- 0 to 69 F

**Disability Statement**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

**Honor Code Policy**

Faculty in the Schar School have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty and will strictly enforce Mason’s honor code.