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DIGITAL GOVERNMENT I
WEEK 4: BUILDING DEMOCRATIC
PUBLICS

Feb 3, 2009

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- Book reviews
 - Discussion of Putnam/Resnick, Sunstein, and 3 cases
 - Group assignment
 - Guest speaker: Scott Aiken

Sunstein's reform recommendations...

1. Deliberative domains
2. Disclosure of relevant conduct by producers of communications
3. Voluntary self-regulation
4. Economic subsidies, including publicly subsidized programming and websites
5. Must-link rules for highly popular websites
6. Must-link rules for highly partisan websites

Putnam's Social Capitalist Agenda

Let us find ways to ensure that by 2010...

- ...The level of civic engagement among Americans coming of age in all parts of our society will match that of their grandparents at the same age, and that bridging social capital will be substantially greater than in their grandparents era.
- ... America's workforce will be substantially more family-friendly and community-congenial, so that American workers will be enabled to replenish stocks of social capital both within and outside the workplace.
- ... Americans will spend less time traveling and more time connecting with our neighbors than we do today, that we will live in more integrated and pedestrian-friendly areas, and that the design of our communities and the availability of public space will encourage more casual socializing with friends and neighbors.
- ... Americans will be more deeply engaged than we are today in one or another spiritual community of meaning, while at the same time becoming more tolerant of the faiths and practices of other Americans.
- ... Americans will spend less leisure time sitting passively alone in front of glowing screens and more time in active connection with our fellow citizens. Let us foster new forms of electronic entertainment and communication that reinforce community engagement rather than forestalling it.
- ... significantly more Americans will participate in (not merely consume or 'appreciate') cultural activities from group dancing to songfests to community theater to rap festivals. Let us discover new ways to use the arts as a vehicle for convening diverse groups of fellow citizens.
- ... many more Americans will participate in the public life of our communities – running for office, attending public meetings, serving on committees, campaigning in elections, and even voting.

Group Assignment Four: Public Cyberspace Agenda

- Articulate a manifesto or agenda for a public-or democracy-serving online world or cyberspace; for each point, offer 2-3 concrete ideas or contributions toward that end (nb: your vision may borrow from, complement and/or depart from the programmatic visions laid out by Putnam and/or Sunstein...)
- *“Let us find ways to ensure that by 2020...”*