

SI 533: Digital Government II:
Information Technology and Democratic Administration

School of Information, University of Michigan
Winter 2007 (Second half)

Instructor: Steven Jackson

OVERVIEW:

This 1.5 credit course is the second in a two-part sequence exploring contemporary practices, challenges, and opportunities at the intersection of information technology and democratic governance. Whereas the first course focuses on tensions and innovations in democratic *politics*, this second course takes on emerging directions in democratic *administration* – and the shifting role of information technologies in supporting, transforming, and understanding these. The first part of the course explores the emerging role of IT in deliberative planning and policy-making processes. The second part of the course locates recent and emerging digital or e-government initiatives in historical, institutional, and comparative context. Throughout, we will explore a range of local, national, and international cases in which new informational forms and practices have met with – and in some cases, begun to alter – the traditional art and practice of democratic governance.

REQUIREMENTS:

Case précis and presentation	-- 20%
Term paper (10-12 pp)	-- 50%
Seminar participation	-- 30%

General seminar participation: This is intended as a serious (albeit large) graduate research seminar, and all the usuals apply: come thoroughly prepared and ready to discuss, and treat your colleagues in a respectful and appropriate manner. While I will lecture from time to time, the quality of this, like any seminar experience, will depend largely on the work of you and your colleagues. While there is no formal requirement for this, I'd also encourage you to devote some time to serious note-taking during and after reading.