Computer networks pervade American life and increasingly structure the way we work and socialize. As we adopt these technologies and use them to create new forms of cultural expression, we also raise a host of new social and policy questions. This course will explore a variety of social factors, past and present, that have affected the way we make, use, and think about computers and the Internet. We will begin with the origins of the Internet and the people who shaped this technology, from military strategists to hackers. We will consider how the “laws” of technology and governments intersect, comparing political responses to the Internet around the world. Examining the ways diverse groups interact and build communities online, we will also ask how cultural norms about race and gender have shaped the ways women and men participate in the world of computing. Requirements include class discussion of readings, short papers, and collaboration on building a course wiki.

**Required Books**


Week 1, January 15 /

Introduction


Assignments: Short paper #1. Begin building course wiki.

Week 2, January 22 /

History of the Internet, part 1

Reading: Abbate, Introduction and chapters 1–3

Assignments: Wiki

Week 3, January 29 /

History of the Internet, part 2

Special guest speaker: Dr. Steve Lukasik, Deputy Director/Director of ARPA, 1967-1974

Reading: Abbate chapters 4–6

Assignments: Short paper #1 due **Friday, February 1 at noon**

Week 4, February 5 /

Discussion of short paper #1

Reading: Short papers

Assignments: Wiki

Week 5, February 12 /

Internet Governance, part 1

Reading: Goldsmith and Wu, Preface and chapters 1-5

Assignments: Wiki

Week 6, February 19 /

Internet Governance, part 2

Reading: Goldsmith and Wu, chapters 6-11

Assignments: Wiki

Week 7, February 26 /

Freedom and Control Online in the United States, part 1

Reading: Lessig chapters 1-8

Assignments: Wiki
********** SPRING BREAK **********

Week 8, March 11 /
Freedom and Control Online in the United States, part 2
   Reading: Lessig chapters 9-18
   Assignments: Short paper #2 due Friday noon

Week 9, March 18 /
Discussion of short paper #2
   Reading: Short papers
   Assignments: Wiki

Week 10, March 25 /
Freedom and Control Online in Authoritarian Regimes, part 1
   Reading: Kalathil and Boas, 1-3
   Assignments: Wiki

Week 11, April 1 /
Freedom and Control Online in Authoritarian Regimes, part 2
   Reading: Kalathil and Boas, 4-6
   Assignments: Wiki

Week 12, April 8 /
Cyberculture, part 1: Theories and Examples
   Assignments: Wiki

Week 13, April 15 /
Cyberculture, part 2: Policies for Improving Cyberculture


Assignments: Short paper #3 due Friday noon

**Week 14, April 22 /**

**Discussion of short paper #3**

Reading: Short papers

Assignments: Wiki

**Week 15, April 29 /**

**Wrap-up**

Reading: TBA

Assignments: Wiki