Government Information Strategy and Management: A Selected Topics Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Theresa A. Pardo
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30-5:30 Milne Hall
Email: tpardo@ctg.albany.edu
Phone: 442-3892

COURSE PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

This course provides students with the opportunity to build practical understanding of a set of emerging issues and topics in information and communication technology innovation in the public sector through a series of readings, lectures and discussions. Topics for 2016 include open government innovation, shared services, information technology governance, smart cities, open data, and e-government for sustainable development. Expert guest instructors who are in, or have held, executive positions in ICT and program areas in NYS government, the US Federal Government and international organizations will provide students with a wide range of insights and perspectives on the selected topics. Students will build understanding of the transformative potential of information and information technology in the public sector and engage with guest instructors on a range of issues, opportunities and strategies and the policy, management and technology innovations driving government transformation.

By the end of the semester, students will:
1. Be familiar with a selected set of current and emerging issues and opportunities inherent in the public sector information environment.
2. Begin to build an understanding of how policy, management, data, and technology interact to influence innovation in the public sector.
3. Gain insight and advice from leading experts on the selected topics.
4. Demonstrate, through analysis and discussion of readings and practical insight provided by guest instructors, the challenges and opportunities facing government officials as they seek to create public value.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The course will consist of a set of modules on selected topics, each covered in either one or two class sessions. Each module will include an introductory lecture, lectures from a guest instructor and a closing discussion session. Each module will also include a week long online discussion with the instructors and classmates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For each of five modules</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Topic preparation and discussion questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Instructor Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Guest Instructor Lecture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Between Classes 1 &amp; 2</th>
<th>Online discussion on topic with instructors and classmates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Small group work, report out and discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Guest Instructor Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Closing Discussion – All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Government Information Strategy and Management: A Selected Topics Seminar

GUEST INSTRUCTORS

Mr. Greg Elin
Chief Executive Officer and Founder, GovReady; Former Chief Data Office, Federal Communications Commission; Former Chief Architect, Sunlight Foundation

Mr. Ronald Greenberg
Senior Adviser, Brown and Weinraub PLLC; Former Deputy Director of Enterprise Shared Services, NYS Division of Budget; Former First Deputy, NYS Division of Budget, Former Deputy Budget Director, NYS Division of Budget.

Mr. Joel Gurin
President and Founder of the Center for Open Data Enterprise; Former Senior Advisor at the Governance Lab (GovLab) at New York University; Chair of the White House Task Force on Smart Disclosure; Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission; Executive Vice President, Consumer Reports.

Mr. Richard Kerby
Inter-Regional Adviser, E-Government Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations, New York

Ms. Kim McKinney
Chief Information Officer Transportation and Economic Development Cluster at New York State Office of Information Technology Services; Former Chief Operations Officer at New York State Office of Information Technology Services; Former Commissioner of Information Technology at Orange County Government, CIO/IT Director Broome County Government

Mr. Chris Vein
Chief Innovation Officer for Global Information and Communications Technology Development at World Bank; Former Deputy Chief Technology Officer, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President; Former Chief Information Officer, City of San Francisco.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Readings
Reading lists to prepare for each new topic and discussion questions will be provided as supplement to this syllabus.

Discussion Forum
Students will be required to participate in an online discussion on each topic. A set of questions for each topic will be provided by the lead and guest instructor. Each online discussion posting will be worth three points. Contributions to this discussion will be part of the students’ graded work according to the following rubric:

- 1 point for original thought/contribution (perspective not previously posted).
- 1 point for development of thought (full explanation, detail, insight; this usually requires a couple of paragraphs or more to accomplish.
- 1 point for responding substantively to the postings of others in a way that extends the discussion.

Semester Project
1. The Semester Project will take the form of a briefing paper to a government official at any level of government. This briefing paper of 7-10 pages will outline for the reader the dominant thinking on
the selected topic from a set of experts on different aspects of this topic including the potential for value creation through attention to this issue or topic and present a set of recommendations regarding a set of actions for the Chief of Staff to consider in advancing the position of this government in terms of the selected topic. The briefing paper may focus on 2-3 of the topics covered in the semester.

2. Each student will be required to provide a 10 minute presentation of the argument and recommendations from the briefing paper. This briefing presentation will outline for the reader the importance of the topic, the dominant thinking on this topic from experts in terms of the challenges governments around the world are facing as they seek to innovate in this area and create new public value.

STUDENT EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grading will be based on the course components as follows:

- Class preparation and participation in class discussions 25%
- Participation in online discussion and contribution to the discussion 40%
- Semester briefing paper 20%
- Final presentation 15%

COURSE POLICIES

Class preparation and participation is required.

Plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the whole course. In addition, as instructor, I will pursue further disciplinary action at the University level. For the purposes of this course, the following are taken as evidence of plagiarism or cheating:

- Material reproduced from another source without any or adequate citation.
- Evidence of collaboration between students on an in-class or take-home assignment that was intended to reflect individual effort.

Since this is such an important matter, if you have any questions about this course policy, you should ask me for any clarification that you need.

REQUIRED READING

Reading lists to prepare for each new topic and discussion questions will be provided as supplement to this syllabus.

RECOMMENDED READING

Reading lists to prepare for each new topic and discussion questions will be provided as supplement to this syllabus.