Government Information Strategy and Management: A Selected Topics Seminar

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COURSE PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

*US News and World Report* ranks Rockefeller College’s Information Technology and Management specialization third (3rd) in the country among similar programs offered in graduate schools of public affairs. Rockefeller’s Government Information Strategy and Management (GISM) specialization addresses public policy and management innovations that are the consequence of rapidly changing information and communication technologies (ICT) and dramatic changes in the nature, amount, and availability of information in government and society.

PAD652 will be offered online for the first time in spring 2018. This online course provides students with the opportunity to build practical understanding of a set of emerging issues, topics and theories in information and communication technology innovation in the public sector through a series of readings, video presentations and online discussions. Topics for 2018 include smart cities, intelligent vehicles, leadership and organizational transformation, open data, and e-government for sustainable development. Expert guest instructors who have or currently hold executive positions in 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 instructors and each other 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 and other students, their own understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing government officials as they seek to create public value so they may bring that insight to their efforts as scholars and practitioners of digital government and of digital government researchers as they seek to advance the field of digital government.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The online course will consist of a set of modules on a set of topics selected by me and the guest instructors. Each module will contain the following:

- Topic and guest instructor video introduction from Dr. Pardo
- Readings, links to other context including videos, blogs, and other content
- Discussion questions from the instructor for that module
- A number of short (up to 10 min) videos from the instructor
- A set of discussion questions for the required online discussion.
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GUEST INSTRUCTORS

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 Technology Officer at New York State Thruway Authority; Former 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

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Readings and Other Sources of Content
Lists of readings and other sources of content will be provided on Blackboard to prepare for each new topic and discussion will be provided on Blackboard as supplements to this syllabus.

Discussion Forum
Students will be required to participate in online discussion on each topic. A set of questions for each topic will be provided by the lead and guest instructors. Students will be scored by discussion rather than by posting. Contributions to each discussion will be part of the students’ graded work according to the following discussion rubric:

- Timeliness of postings
- Original thought/contribution (perspective not previously posted).
- Development of thought (full explanation, detail, insight; this usually requires a couple of paragraphs or more to accomplish.
- Responding substantively to the postings of others in a way that engages others or provides opportunity for others to engage and extends the discussion.

A final rubric will be shared once the first discussion is launched.

Semester Project
1. The Semester Project will take the form of a short paper. Final details on the design and focus of that paper will be provided by March 15.
2. Each student will be required to provide a 10 minute video presentation on their final paper.
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STUDENT EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grading will be based on the course components as follows:

- Class preparation and participation in class discussions: 15%
- Participation in online discussion forum: 40%
- Semester project: 30%
- Final presentation: 15%

COURSE POLICIES

Communications

All communication for this course will take place within the online course. There are two ways to communicate with me:

- **Course Messages** is available in the Communication section of the course Menu; course messages is a private one-on-one way for you to communicate with me. Use course messages to address specific questions or comments to me or selected members of the class.

- **Ask a Question** Forums are for public contact and communication with me, the course TA and other students taking the course. Think of this as "raising your hand" in class. These areas are found in the Communication section of the course menu and can be accessed via the **Discussions** link. Use this space for any question or comment that is of interest to the whole class.

All announcements will be made through the Blackboard e-mail system. Also, I will use Blackboard e-mail for sharing common concerns and issues. Hence, you should make sure that your Blackboard e-mail is forwarded to your regular e-mail (so that you do not have to frequently check another e-mail account).

**Responsible Use of Information Technology at UAlbany**

Students are encouraged to read the University at Albany Policy for the Responsible Use of Information Technology available at the ITS Web Site: [https://wiki.albany.edu/display/public/askit/Responsible+Use+of+Information+Technology+Policy](https://wiki.albany.edu/display/public/askit/Responsible+Use+of+Information+Technology+Policy)

**Plagiarism or Cheating**

Any incidents of 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.

You can find more information at [http://www.albany.edu/eltl/academic_integrity.php](http://www.albany.edu/eltl/academic_integrity.php).

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.