

COMM 582 -International Communication and National Development Spring 2009

Monday 2:00pm-4:50pm, KER305

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Office hours: by appointment

Course description: This is an advanced graduate and doctoral seminar that looks at the opportunities and challenges created by the revolution in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to developing nations. We will discuss general issues such as the role of ICTs in economic growth as well as more specific applications of ICTs for development such as e-government and poverty reduction strategies.

This syllabus is a work in progress, meant to be adjusted based on the particular interests of the students in the class. However, the course will cover three core topics:

- 1) Theoretical connections between information/communication technologies and development.
- 2) Specific technologies and their applications to the development context (e.g. mobile and wireless, open source software, internet, etc.)
- 3) The socio-economic implications of ICT applications (e.g. on markets, government, innovation, skills, etc.)

Class structure: This is a seminar. It means there will be no formal lectures, but rather open class discussions based on the readings and projects generated by students. Typically, in the first part of the class we will have a discussion about the weekly topic(s) based on questions prepared by students. After a short break, in the second part of the class we will discuss the progress of the projects being developed by students.

Course requirements: There are three requirements for the course:

1. **In-class participation.** Students are expected to make informed contributions to class discussions and activities. This includes preparing questions and leading the class discussion based on the reading material. Each week will be assigned to one (or several) student(s) to prepare questions and lead the discussion. Grade percentage: 30%
2. **Online participation.** Students will be expected to participate actively in online activities. This could be a class blog or wiki (or something else...), to be discussed at the beginning of the class. Grade percentage: 20%
3. **Class project.** Students will develop a project in which they are expected to make an original contribution to the literature on ICT and development. This contribution may

be based on primary or secondary data (opportunities to become involved in ongoing research projects led by the instructor and other faculty will be discussed in class). Students will report weekly on the progress of their projects in the second part of the class. Final results will be presented to the class in our last meeting. A final paper (20 pages suggested) based on these results will be due during the week of finals. Grade percentage: 50%

Course material: All the class readings can be found online, either on the World Wide Web or on specialized databases available to USC students such as FirstSearch and ProQuest. The list of readings for each week is just a starting point. We may decide as a group to add or delete material depending on where the class discussions take us.

A brief announcement from the Office of Civil Rights: Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from the DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DPS is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

The Annenberg School for Communication is committed to upholding the University's Academic Integrity code as detailed in the SCampus Guide. It is the policy of the School of Communication to report all violations of the code. Any serious violation or pattern of violations of the Academic Integrity Code will result in the student's expulsion from the Communication major or minor.

Class schedule

1. Introduction to the class.

I. Information Technologies and Economic Development

2. The New Economy: What is it?

- Pohjola, M. 2002. The New Economy: facts, impacts and policies. *Information economics and Policy 14*: 133-144. Available at <http://hkkk.fi/~pohjola/The%20New%20Economy.pdf>
- Quah, D. 2001. *Technology Dissemination and Economic Growth: Some Lessons for the New Economy* (skip the technical appendix). CEP Discussion Papers No. 0522. Available at <http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/DP0522.pdf>
- Cohen, S., DeLong, B., Zysman, J. 2000. *Tools for thought” What is new and important about the “e-conomy”?* BRIE Working Paper #138 (p. 1-40, the rest is optional). Available at <http://e-economy.berkeley.edu/publications/wp/wp138.pdf>
- Benkler, Y. 2006. *The Wealth of Networks*, Yale U. Press. Chapter 1. available from http://www.benkler.org/wealth_of_networks
- (In case you haven't read it yet..) Shapiro, C. and Varian, H. 1998. *Information Rules*, HBS press. (read at least chapter 1, available on the HBS site: <http://harvardbusinessonline.hbsp.harvard.edu>)

3. The New Economy and Development: The theory.

- Castells, Manuel. 1999. *Information Technology, Globalization and Social Development*. UNRISD Discussion Paper No. 114, September 1999. Available at <http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/0/F270E0C066F3DE7780256B67005B728C?OpenDocument>
- Steinmueller, E. (2001). ICTs and the possibilities for leapfrogging by developing countries. *International Labour Review 140*(2): 193-210 (available through ProQuest).
- Rodríguez, F., & Wilson, E. 2000. *Are Poor Countries Losing the Information Revolution?*. infoDev Working Paper. Available at <http://www.infodev.org/library/working.htm>

- The Global Information and Communications Technologies Department of the World Bank Group. 2000. *The Networking Revolution: Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries*. infoDev Working Paper. Available at <http://www.infodev.org/library/working.htm>
- ITU. 2003. *World Telecommunications Development Report*. Chapter 4: ICTs and the Millennium Development Goals. Available at the ICTs and Poverty Reduction Workspace.

4. The New Economy and Development: The Evidence.

- Grace, J., Kenny, C., & Qiang, C. 2001. *Information and Communication Technologies and Broad-Based Development: A Partial Review of the Evidence*. Available at http://www.tessproject.com/guide/pubs/telecom/ICT_&Broad_Based_Development.pdf
- Hewitt de Alcántara, C. 2001. *The development divide in a digital age: An issues paper*. UNRISD Discussion Paper, August. Available at <http://www.eldis.org/static/DOC12667.htm>
- Balamoune, M. 2002. *The New Economy and Developing Countries*. WIDER Discussion Paper No. 2002/77. Available at <http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/dps/dps2002/dp2002-77.pdf>

II. Technological Opportunities

4. Low-cost Technologies.

- Caspary, Georg, and O'Connor, David. 2003. *Providing low-cost information technology access to rural communities in developing countries: What works? What pays?* OECD Development Centre, July. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/13/52/7112502.pdf>
- James, Jeffrey. 2003. *The global information infrastructure revisited*. Third World Quarterly 22(5): 813-822 (available through ProQuest).
- Kirkman, George S. 2001. *Out of the labs and into the developing world: Using appropriate technologies to promote truly global Internet diffusion*. Background paper prepared for the UNDP's Human Development Report 2001, March. Available at <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/ciditg/papers/Kirkman%20JHD%20article%20final.doc>

- Best, M. 2003. The wireless revolution and universal access. In *Trends in Telecommunications Reform*. Geneva: ITU. Available at http://itc.mit.edu/itel/docs/2003/michael_best.pdf

7. Free/Open-source Software.

- Weber, S. *Open Source Software in Developing Economies*. Available at http://www.ssrc.org/programs/itic/publications/ITST_materials/webernote2.pdf
- Debroy, B, & Morris, J. 2004. *Open Source Software in Developing Economies*. Available at <http://www.policynetwork.net/pdfs/open-to-development-2004.pdf>

8. Community-based Networks.

- Girard, B., & Ó Siochrú, S. 2004. *Innovative Technologies and Community Ownership: A New Model of ICT Access for the Rural Poor*. Available at the ICTs and Poverty Reduction Workspace.
- Cecchini, S., & Scott, C. 2003. *Can Information and Communications Technology Applications Contribute to Poverty Reduction? Lessons from Rural India*. *Information Technology for Development* 10 (2003) 73–84. Available at <http://itd.ist.unomaha.edu/Archives/1.pdf>
- Birchall, J. 2003. *Rediscovering the cooperative advantage: Poverty reduction through self-help*. Available at <http://www.wisc.edu/uwcc/info/cd/jb1.pdf>

9. Appropriation, innovation and development

10. Universal Access: Old Tools and New Models.

- Navas-Sabater, Juan, Dymond, Andrew, & Juntunen, Niina. 2002. *Telecommunications and information services for the poor*. World Bank Discussion Paper No. 432. Available at http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000094946_02041804225061
- Wellenius, B. 2000. *Extending Telecommunications beyond the Market: Toward Universal Service in Competitive Environments*. World Bank Note No. 206. Available at <http://rru.worldbank.org/Documents/PublicPolicyJournal/206welle.pdf>

- The Panos Institute. 2004. *Completing the Revolution - The Challenge of Rural Telephony in Africa*. Available at <http://www.panos.org.uk/PDF/reports/Panos%20Report%20-%20Completing%20the%20Revolution.pdf>
- Badshah, A, Khan, S., & Garrido, M. 2004. *Connected for Development: Information Kiosks and Sustainability*. UN ICT Task Force Series 4. Available at <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/perl/documents.pl?id=1361> (read Sections I and II, skim the rest).

III. Socio-economic implications

11. ICTs and Poverty Reduction.

- Spence, R. 2003. *Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Poverty Reduction: When, Where and How?*. Available at http://network.idrc.ca/uploads/user-S/10618469203RS_ICT-Pov_18_July.pdf
- Kenny, Charles. 2002. Information and communication technologies for direct poverty alleviation: Costs and benefits. *Development Policy Review* 20(2): 141-157 (available through FirstSearch).
- Eggleston, Karen, Jensen, Robert, & Zeckhauser, Richard. 2002. Information and communication technologies, markets, and economic development. In *The Global Information Technology Report 2001-2002: Readiness for the Networked World*. Available at http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cr/pdf/gitrr2002_ch07.pdf
- Adeya, C. 2002. *ICTs and Poverty: A literature review*. Available at <http://web.idrc.ca/uploads/user-S/10541291550ICTPovertyBiblio.doc>
- Slater, D, & Tacchi, J. 2004. *ICT innovations for poverty reduction*. Available at <http://cirac.qut.edu.au/ictpr/downloads/research.pdf> (browse).

12. Global ICT Governance for Development.

- Mueller, M., Mathiason, J, McKnight, L. (2004). *Making Sense of "Internet Governance:" Identifying Public Policy Issues*. Available at <http://dcc.syr.edu/miscarticles/IGP-ITU.pdf>
- Sadowsky, G., Zambrano, R., and Dandjinou, P. (2004). *Internet governance: A discussion document*. Available at <http://www.unicttaskforce.org/perl/documents.pl?id=1299>

13. E-literacy and Development.

- Warschauer, M. 2003. Dissecting the "digital divide": A case study in Egypt. *The Information Society*, 19(4), 297-304. Available at <http://www.gse.uci.edu/markw/dissecting.pdf>
- Warschauer, M. 2003. Social Capital and access. Universal Access in the Information Society 2(4). Available at <http://www.gse.uci.edu/markw/soccap.pdf>

14. E-government and Development.

- Heeks, Richard. 2001. *Understanding e-governance for development*. IDPM Working Paper No. 11. Available at http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/publications/wp/igov/igov_wp11.pdf
- Panzardi, R., Calcopietro, C., & Ivanovic, F. 2002. *Electronic Government and Governance: Lessons for Argentina*. Available at <http://www1.worldbank.org/publicsector/egov/Argentina%20Paper%20on%20E-Government.doc>
- Heeks, R. 2002. eGovernment in Africa: *Promise and Practice*. IDPM Working Paper No. 11. Available at http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/publications/wp/igov/igov_wp13.pdf

15. E-commerce and Development.

- Mansell, R. (2001). Digital opportunities and the missing link for developing countries. *Oxford Review of economic Policy* 17(2): 282-295 (available through Proquest).
- UNCTAD. 2003. *E-commerce and development report 2003*. Available at http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ecdr2003_en.pdf
- Bastos Tigre, P. 2003. *E-Commerce Readiness and Diffusion: The Case of Brazil*. Available at <http://crito.uci.edu/publications/pdf/gec/brazil.pdf>

16. IPR and Development.

- UK Commission on Intellectual Property Rights. (2002). *Integrating intellectual property rights and development policy* (read chapters 1 and 5, the rest is optional. Available at http://www.iprcommission.org/papers/pdfs/final_report/CIPRfullfinal.pdf

- Okediji, R. 2004. *Development in the Information Age Issues in the Regulation of Intellectual Property Rights, Computer Software and Electronic Commerce*. Available at http://www.iprsonline.org/unctadictsd/docs/CS_Okediji.pdf
- Falvey, R., Foster, N., & Greenaway, D. 2004. *Intellectual Property Rights and Economic Growth*. Available at http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/economics/leverhulme/research_papers/04_12.pdf

IV. Project Presentations.