

Democracy 2.0: How to Design a Society

INTA 4803HP

Fall 2012

TTh 3:05-4:25 pm

IC 107

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Hours: M 10:00-12:00, or by appt.

This class is about how to design a society. It uses a particular societal design, Democracy 2.0 as an example of how to do it. This class will examine why we want to do society design, what comes out of the society design process, and the specific features of Democracy 2.0 (D2) as a societal design. The class then focuses on what we need to know and be able to do to implement D2. To do that we go into much more detail with respect to the additions to our political system that comprise D2. The class also addresses features of a good societal design and specific steps to implement D2.

I would like you to do a class project that would help move the D2 project forward. There are a number of possibilities. One possibility is to collect data for one of two parts of the book. The first of those data collection efforts is the variables needed to finish assembling the Human Well-Being Index. The second data collection effort is to extend the measure of military power using data from from 1946 to 2011. Another possible activity would be to create a website to augment the book by allowing multimedia presentations and interactivity such as podcasts or video clips or online blogging/discussions. Yet a third possibility would be to work on developing the preference determination process, figuring out how to give everyone a voice. I am open to alternatives.

I expect adherence to the Georgia Tech Code of Conduct. Note also that to get an A with respect to class participation, you must do more than simply attend regularly. You need to ask questions or make relevant comments. A good rule of thumb for discerning whether you are doing A-level participation is whether I know your name when I call upon you.

Make use of the library, especially Mary Axford, who supports INTA (mary.axford@library.gatech.edu). She is very helpful.

Texts

Draft chapters of the D2 book and related PowerPoints will be available on T-Square
William Bernstein, *A Splendid Exchange*
Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money*
Francis Fukuyama, *The Origins of Political Order*

Background Readings (optional)

Isaac Asimov, *Foundation*
Donald Kingsbury, *Psychohistorical Crisis*
Any of the other *Foundation*-related books

Schedule:

Aug. 21, 23 Introduction and Purpose of Class
Read: Preface

- Aug. 28, 30 The Possibility of Improving Governance
Read: *The Rise of Governance*
- Sept. 4, 6 Why Might We Want to Do Society Design
Read: *Why Design a Society?*
- Sept. 11, 13 The Human Well-Being Index
Read: *Human Well-Being Index*
- Sept. 18, 20 The Preference Determination Process
Read: *Preference Determination Process*
- Sept. 25, 27 Alternatives Testing Model Design
Read: *The Domains of Social Processes*
Report of activities due on Sept. 27
- Oct. 2, 4 Technological Foundations for the Alternatives Testing Model
Read: *Foundations of Computational Modeling of Societies*
- Oct. 9, 11 Why Should We Believe the Alternatives Testing Model?
Read: *Theory and Evidence*
- Oct. 18 Transforming Social Theories Into Computable Code of the ATM
(NO CLASS ON 16th)
Read: *The Representation of Theories*
- Oct. 23, 25 Representing the Population of a Society
Read: *The Spread of Ideas*
- Oct. 30, Nov.1 Lessons from History
Report pertaining to 3 textbooks due on Nov. 1
- Nov. 8 Implementing D2 in a Society
(NO CLASS ON 6th)
- Nov. 13, 15 Assembling and Operating the Alternatives Testing Model
Read: *Pathway to the Alternatives Testing Model*
2nd report of activities due on Nov. 15
- Nov. 20 Elements of a Good Societal Design/Avoiding Bad Designs
(NO CLASS ON 22nd)
Read: *How to Avoid Bad Societal Designs*
- Nov. 27, 29 Presentation of Research Projects
- Dec. 4, 6 Presentation of Research Projects

Determination of Final Grade

1 st activities report	10%
2 nd activities report	10%
Report on textbooks analysis	20%

presentation of research project	10%
final project report	30%
class participation	20%