DISCIPLINA: E-DEMOCRACY PRACTICE  
CÓDIGO: GRDDIRELE0134

PROFESSOR: IVAR HARTMANN E ALEX HUDSON  
CARGA HORÁRIA: 30h

EMENTA
a) overview of e-democracy, b) the concept of democracy, c) political participation, d) online participation, e) open government, f) ‘notice and comment’, g) petitions and surveys, h) slacktivism, i) hacktivism, j) online political collaboration, k) the future of e-democracy practice

OBJETIVOS GERAIS
Explore how advances in information and communications technology (ICT) have changed the way that governments interact with their citizens, both in terms of flows of information, and in terms of the means by which citizens articulate their demands. The main question that the course will devote itself to is: what is political action in a network society? Advances in ICT have created new opportunities for political participation that may reshape our understanding of democratic government.

OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS
Students will gain a thorough understanding of current research on democracy, online political participation - traditional and disruptive, and e-government. Students will also engage in a critical dialogue about what these developments mean for law and democracy. Beyond this, students will grapple with the legal and political difficulties attending new and controversial forms of electronically enabled political participation. As a final project, students will write a proposal or complete design for design a website or app that could be used to enable either (1) delivery of government services or information, (2) aggregation of citizen demands to the government, (3) online political organization.

METODOLOGIA
Class debates based on assigned readings (approximately 30 pages per week) and recent and ongoing events related to the course topics. Class participation will not be graded. No prior technical knowledge is required. Instructors will make every reasonable effort to help with the language.

The course will include three one-page response papers (which can be written in Portuguese), and a final take home exam.

PROGRAMA
a) overview of e-democracy, b) the concept of democracy, c) political participation, d) online participation, e) open government, f) ‘notice and comment’, g) petitions and surveys, h) slacktivism, i) hacktivism, j) online political collaboration, k) the future of e-democracy practice

CRITÉRIOS DE AVALIAÇÃO
Three short response papers (60%) and one take home final exam (40%). Class participation is encouraged, but will not count towards the final grade. The response papers can be written in Portuguese.

Take home exam will be made available to the students on November 25th. Deadline to submit answers is December 2nd. Because the exam is take home, there will not be the option of a substitution exam. The take home final exam (if necessary) will be made available on December 9th. Deadline to submit the final exam is December 15th.

For both the exam and the final exam, a penalty for failing to submit answers by the deadline will be applied. If the answers are submitted after 11:59 and before 0:59 (of the following day),
the grade will be deducted 0.5 (out of the total of 10). Submission after 0:59 and before 1:59 will cause a deduction of 1.0 and so on.

All take home exams have to be submitted to both ivarhartmann@gmail.com and ivar.hartmann@fgv.br by 11:59pm of the day of the deadline.

Response papers should be submitted to the same emails by 11:59pm of the day before the class in which they are due. By August 1st, all students must sign up for 3 different classes of their choice for their response papers. Not more than 3 students can sign up for the same class. Sign up for each class will work on a first-come, first-serve basis. The sign up document is available at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EpJ-X-71SHXkvg81ksginDPllqU-ZYlnHp-bOxzUCJ/edit?usp=sharing

BIBLIOGRAFIA OBRIGATÓRIA
Schlozman, Kay Lehman et al., 2010. Weapon of the Strong? Participatory Inequality and the Internet, Perspectives on Politics, 8.

BIBLIOGRAFIA COMPLEMENTAR
Etling, Bruce, Robert Faris and John Palfrey. 2010. Political Change in the Digital Age: The Fragility and Promise of Online Organizing. SAIS Review, Volume 30, Issue 2

Syllabus

July 25th

Class 1 – Introduction. Explanation of class objectives, topics and evaluation criteria.

2. Dilma Rousseff appeal smashes Brazilian crowdfunding record

August 1st

Class 2 – Theories of democracy

Context


Readings


August 22nd

Class 3 – Online political participation

Context


Readings


August 29th

Class 4 – Open Government

Context


Readings


September 5th

Class 5 – “Notice and Comment”

Context

1. http://www.noticeandcomment.com (Check this out to search for some rule changes in US law that are currently open for public comments. Also see http://www.regulations.gov)


Readings


September 12th

Class 6 – Petitions and Surveys

Context


Readings

September 19th

Class 7 – Slacktivism 1

Context

2. Three years after it fell apart, Kony 2012 may have finally changed the world. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2015/04/21/three-years-after-it-fell-apart-kony-2012-may-have-finally-changed-the-world/

Readings


September 26th

Class 8 – Slacktivism 2

Context


Readings

October 17th

Class 9 – Hactivism 1

Context


Readings


October 24th

Class 10 – Hactivism 2

Context


Readings


October 31st

Class 11 – Online Political Collaboration 1

Context
1. Crowdsourcing Cambodia’s Online Bill of Rights. 

Readings

   http://groups.dowire.org/groups/exchange/files/f/18730-2010-10-04T030532Z/hindman_online_public_sphere_pre.pdf

November 7th

Class 12 – Online Political Collaboration 2

Context

1. SOPA and PIPA Internet blackout aftermath, staggering numbers. 
2. One Year After SOPA Blackout, Activists Celebrate 'Internet Freedom Day'. 
   http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2414468,00.asp
3. The Web Goes On A SOPA Strike, With The Oatmeal Doing It Best. 

Readings

   http://www.academia.edu/2606087/The_Technological_Dimension_of_Deliberation_A_Comparison_between_Online_and_Offline_Participation

November 21st

Class 13 – The future of e-democracy practice

Context

   http://www.theguardian.com/media-network/2015/apr/01/uk-political-system-digital-technology
Readings