

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN
Public Management and Policy Analysis Program
Graduate School of International Relations

ADC 5032301 (2 Credits)
Information Policy and Management
Fall 2018

Final Exam (100 points)

Instruction: This take-home exam accounts for 40 percent of the final grade. Download the template file and then write down your answers there. Try to write your own sentences as opposed to those copied from textbooks or papers. Be concise and hit the highlight. Submit your answer to kucc625@iuj.ac.jp by 23:50 Wednesday, December 12.

Caution: (1) You may NOT communicate (including written, verbal, gestural, and other forms of communication) with anyone else other than the instructor about this exam. (2) DO NOT ASK your classmates to show their work. DO NOT SHOW your work to other classmates. (3) When copying or paraphrasing some parts of a book, paper, report, or Internet resources, you MUST cite the source or give credit to authors in order to avoid plagiarism. In-text citation is sufficient if sources are listed in the syllabus; otherwise, you must provide the sources in the reference section. The failure to comply with these rules will be considered academic dishonesty and misconduct. I trust each of you implicitly, but you should be aware of IUJ's policy on plagiarism and cheating. The penalties include sanctions from immediate F in this course and up to expulsion from the university.

Question 1 (25 points) Social media are expected to provide government departments and agencies with chance to improve relationship with citizens (two-way interaction) dramatically. But the government use of social media seems to be far less promising than such expectation. For example, Reddick and Norris (2013: 506) concluded as “most local governments use social media passively and unidimensionally (from government to citizen).” Explain why social network service (e.g., Facebook) used by government is less likely to make government more transparent, responsible, and accountable. You may consider the characteristics of individual social media, citizens’ (or departments’) ability, preference, and knowledge, and/or privacy and data security issues when answering this question.

Question 2 (25 points). Copyright protection is expected to provide proper incentives to authors who will produce more and better intellectual products (e.g., song, movie, book, and computer software) that a society needs. The underlying assumption is the market failure in intellectual properties (sufficient intellectual properties will not be produced in a market without appropriate protection for them) that calls for government intervention. The U.S. Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998, for instance, imposes criminal penalty on those who provide and/or use circumvent technologies. This neo-liberalism has been challenged by open source software (e.g., Linux, Firefox, and Apache) and some musicians (e.g., Psy) who have tried to reach their audience directly using social media like YouTube. Explain how the successes of open source software and Psy’s Gangman Style have disarmed (attacked) the logics of neo-liberalism in the copyright industry.

Question 3 (25 points) Cyber-optimists expect that the use of information technology and services improves social capital and civic engagement by facilitating communication among

citizens. Putnam (2000) stated, however, “Computer-mediated communication transmits much less nonverbal information than face-to-face communication” (p. 175). Stromer-Galley (2000) argued that candidates avoid two-way computer-mediated human interaction and prefer one-way media interaction due to excessive burden, loss of control, and loss of ambiguity. Park (2015), which was described in the class (note), argued that e-government works in the utilitarian mode of information technology use. Considering these studies (you have to mention all three studies), do you think government use of information systems is likely to materialize the deliberative and participatory democracy? Why and why not?

Question 4 (25 points) Remember the “fake news” that the instructor defined in the class. Note that Donald Trump’s fake news is not as strictly and clearly defined as instructor’s one. Like flaming, the “fake news” oftentimes contributes to making the virtual sphere (e.g., chat room, online forum, and instant messaging in Kakao Talk or Telegram) as a cyber-cesspool. (1) Explain whether “fake news” is justified in the name of the free speech doctrine from John Stuart Mill’s standpoint. You need to compare characteristics (features) of “fake news” and Mill’s core social values in free speech in order to make your argument logical. (2) Do you think “fake news,” as defined by the instructor, needs to be regulated by government (e.g., notice-and-takedown policy)? Why and why not?

The end of the final exam