

New Course – Spring 2009
ICS-691: Digital Government
Dr. Scott Robertson
scott.robertson@hawaii.edu

America has just elected the first “YouTube President”, and in 2008 the internet moved ahead of print media as a source of election information.

Digital government is the application of information and communication technologies to the operation of government systems and the participation of citizens in government and civic activities.

“This I hope will be the age of experiments in government, and that their basis will be founded in principles of honesty, not of mere force.”
Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, 1796

Some aspects of Digital Government are:

- Electronic voting
- Online campaigns
- Provision of government services
- Virtual town halls
- Resource management
- Emergency response
- Taxation and licensing
- Online activism



In this course we will explore e-Government, e-Participation, and e-Citizenship. We will survey e-Government systems in many countries and consider what is working and what is not. We will look at trends in user acceptance, growth, and new directions such as Web 2.0. and distributed/mobile systems. We will consider the usability challenges of systems that must be universally accessible. We will examine how new media impacts existing organizations (e.g. libraries).

This course should be taken by students interested in information provision and organization in the domain of politics, politics and new media, HCI, social trends and activism, and computers and society. The course will be taught in a seminar format utilizing current readings from the research literature. We will develop a “Citizen Participation” prototype using new media.

