Inside Innovation CIC 6044a

Tuesdays @ 1300-1500

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CIC 6044a Course Description

This is the first course in a 2-course project track. Students must take both the Fall and Spring electives in this track to complete the project and earn an Inside Innovation Information concentration certificate. Unclassified, no pre-requisites. Neither a technical background nor personal social media use is required. International students welcome.

This course provides an opportunity for creative problem-solving through innovative research partnerships including hands-on exercises participating in a live R&D project supporting joint stakeholders. Over the span of a 2-elective series track, students share their domain expertise to shape real-world research while partners share technical expertise in emerging technology solutions in the information/influence space.

Track A) "Understanding Chinese Influence" supported with a grant from OSD
Minerva's DECUR research award supports INDOPACOM, AFRICOM, JS J39

Activities include developing prototypes, scoping questions, defining analysis/evaluation methods, choosing software suites, and testing hypotheses with stakeholders while increasing knowledge of influence and emerging technology. Deliverables will emphasize strong communication and critical thinking skills, increasing facility to interact in technology-rich decision-making.

Technical partner, University of Washington Informatics Department, will provide additional perspectives and expertise to develop project solutions.

Course Deliverables

Course deliverables are requirements from OSD, including mid-project after action reports, and oral briefings that will follow critical stages of project development and research including problem scoping, use case selection, methodology, and evaluation results. All projects address the following research questions (RQ)s, in whole or in part, leading to the construction of a 'frame mapping visualization' with technical partners at the University of Washington and data collection/evaluation partners on the ground in PACOM area of responsibility. Most work will be done as teams with individuals graded on class participation.

1. RQ1) How do the two primary vectors of influence operations—astroturfing and censorship—manifest both within and outside the mainland at the advent of a collective action event in an Indo-Pacific region?

2. (RQ2) How can we describe operations in the information environment in terms of an ecology of U.S.-based platforms and Chinese-based platforms, relevant actor networks, online and offline event timings that convey a Chinese strategic decision-making perspective for the Indo-Pacific region?

3. (RQ3)How can we use observations of both online and offline events to inform new cross-cultural theory in social interaction? Specifically, how can we understand cross cultural variation in strategic decision-making through event frame analysis?

4. (RQ4) Can we validate a model that connects online and offline activities for Chinese influence operations in the Indo-Pacific?