

Syllabus
The Internet in Africa: Soc. 194-1006
Course Number: Lec 81034
Fall 2008

Instructor : William Foster, Ph.D.
Faculty Associate
Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus
wafoster@asu.edu
520-440-0807 (it is fine to call me on weekends).

Office Hours : By appointment

Course Description:

The Internet (which we will define as to include mobile telecommunications) is changing the world. Perhaps the continent which it has the most potential to change is Africa. Though there is one Internet, the pattern of Internet diffusion is different in each country, based on different political, economic, and cultural factors. In this class we will try and make sense of the Internet by using the “country” as the unit of analysis. Each of you will pick one country where you will become the expert on the Internet in that country. Using information technology, you will build your expertise about the Internet in a particular country without actually visiting the country. You will do original sociology research.

In consultation with the Professor, you will choose one country to become an expert on. Your final paper will be a case study of the Internet in that country. Also, many of the discussion questions will require you to gather information on the country you are studying.

Learning Outcomes

1. Develop the skills and confidence to do original sociological research in Africa.
2. Understand the technology and policy issues that impact the Internet in Africa.
3. Understand the GDI method of doing Internet case studies.
4. Develop the skills to write an effective case study.

Word of Caution

You should not give out any personal information over the Internet about yourself including your address and financial information.

Skype

You are expected to have your own computer and should download Skype (www.Skype.com). It is recommended that you have a microphone and a web cam. If you don't, you can borrow the instructor's computer and web cam.

About the Instructor

William Foster, PhD. Has taught at ASU since 2001. His PhD is in Management Information Systems from the University of Arizona. His dissertation on *The Diffusion of the Internet in China* was published by CISAC at Stanford University. Dr. Foster also runs a management consulting company, Foster and Brahm. His books and articles as well as his resume are available at <http://www.FosterandBrahm.com>. Between 1966-1970, Dr. Foster lived in Nigeria where his father worked in the Smallpox Eradication Program.

1) Discussion questions: 15 points per forum (180 total)

There will be one discussion question each week. The discussion forums are on Blackboard. Discussion questions will be posted the Sunday of the assigned week. You will post your first response to the discussion question by the Wednesday after the professor posts the question. By Saturday at midnight, you should post all responses to the question.

You will get up to 15 points on each discussion question, broken down as follows:

8 points for addressing the discussion question. Points will be given for knowledge of the reading, and for thinking critically about the question. Thinking outside the box is encouraged.

2 points for making at least one reference to a website, video, or article that bears on the question at hand. When pointing to a resource, please provide a one paragraph introduction to the resource that explains why we should take the time to view it.

2 points for making two comments on your classmates' posts. You are expected to rate using stars the posts to which you are responding.

Baseline-3 points (you get 3 points just for posting on time. Please note that failure to post by due date will result in a zero point as late responses are not graded at all.)

Final Project: The Diffusion of the Internet in a particular country: 120 Points

You will write a 15 - 20 page case study of the Internet in a particular country using the GDI methodology. For examples of country studies see <http://Mosaic.UNOmaha.edu/gdi.html>

A list of resources for doing studies of the impact of telecommunications on a country is at:

<http://libguides.asu.edu/soc352>

You are required to document all your sources. You may use any citation style that you feel comfortable with.

Video Project: Video on Internet in a particular country: 100 points

You will create a 5 – 10 minute You Tube video about Internet in your chosen country. You will need a web cam and a computer. If you do not have one you can borrow the professor's computer and web cam. To create a video go to www.youtube.com and create an account. Then choose to upload a file and then choose the option to record from a web cam.

Discussion beginning	Assigned reading	Assignment Due
August 25, 2008		Discussion 1: Introduce yourself by discussing your perspective on what Africa has to contribute to the world and why you are interested in Africa.
Aug. 31st, 2008 Pervasiveness	Read the “ICT Indicators 20080” Page 1-14 (available on course documents).	Discussion 2:
Sept. 7 th ,	Micheal Best article on Liberia (available on course documents).	Discussion 3:
Sept. 14 th Organizational Infrastructure	Eric Osiakwan article on Ghana. (available on course documents) “ITU Indicators 2008” Page 23-32	Discussion 4
Sept . 21 Mobile Technology	Patience Akpan article on Telecom in Nigeria (available under course documents)	Discussion 5
Sept. 28 th International Bandwidth	“ITU Indicators 2008” Page 14-16	Discussion 6
Oct. 5 th Broadband	“ITU Indicators 2008” Pages 10-13	Discussion 7
Oct. 12 th Internet Exchanges		Discussion Question 8
Oct. 19th E-Commerce		Discussion Question 9
Oct. 24th Video	“African Eyes” (available under course documents)	Discussion 10

Nov. 2 nd Internet and Sustainable Development	Creating a world without “Creating a World without Poverty: Chapter 9”	Discussion 11
Nov. 9 th Will Advertising drive Internet diffusion in Africa?	Reading yet to be posted	Discussion 12
Nov. 16 th		No discussion board Create your video and send your YouTube URL to the Professor.
Nov. 23 rd	Thanksgiving (no discussion board)	
Nov. 30 th	Assigned videos Conclusion	Discussion Question 13
<u>Dec. 7th</u>	<u>Last day of class on 9th</u>	<u>Paper on Internet in your country due at midnight on Dec. 9th.</u>