KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
GITAM (Deemed to be University)
Rudraram, Patancheru Mandal
Hyderabad, Telangana 502329

Course Code: PPOL7101	Course Title: Technology, Society and Governance	
Trimester: 4	Course Type:	Credits: 3
Home Program(s): MPP	Batch/Academic Year: 2023 - 2025	
Course Lead: Dr. Sharique Manazir	Assigned T/RA:	

Course Description

In this course on Technology, Society & Governance, students will embark on an interdisciplinary exploration of how science and technology intersect with digital governance and public policy in India. Beginning with an examination of foundational Science, Technology and Society (STS) theories, the course assesses how societal dynamics drive technological advancements within specific governance frameworks, such as decentralized democracies like India . Through case studies and experiential learning, including policy walks in the Indian Parliament, students will assess India's digital governance trajectory and its impact on critical areas like e-participation, digital identification, and public service delivery using new technologies. They will (a) understand the role of digital governance in parliamentary processes, and evaluate its challenges and benefits; (b) delve into emerging technological realms such as e-participation platforms, digital currency regulations, and artificial intelligence, and discuss their governance implications; (c) cultivate analytical skills and critical perspectives essential for actively participating in discussions surrounding technology's role in governance and society within the Indian landscape.

Parliament Visit

This course provides a distinctive experiential learning opportunity for students, through official visits to both the new and old Indian Parliament, followed by briefings at the Parliament and conversations with senior government officials. This immersive experience aims to offer insights for students to understand how India is evolving through digitisation of governance e.

Learning Objectives

1. Comprehensive Understanding: Students will gain a deep understanding of the dynamic interplay between technology, society, and governance within India's public policy landscape.
2. Analytical Skills Development: Students will develop the skills to critically analyse

the intricacies of governance digitisation and the challenges it poses, with a focus on understanding how technology intersects with public policies from a Digital Humanities perspective.

3. Evaluation of Technology-Driven Governance: Students will explore the benefits, limitations, and challenges of technology-driven governance, and understand its implications on societal well-being.
4. Proposal of Policy Solutions: Students will acquire the ability to analyse, evaluate, and propose public policy solutions to address governance challenges effectively, considering the importance of human interaction in decision-making processes.
5. Practical Applications: Students will be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to apply their learnings in real-world scenarios, enhancing their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the improvement of governance outcomes.

Course Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Understand the complex interplay between technology, society, and governance from the Indian perspective.
2. Analyse the challenges and opportunities presented by digitization in governance, with a focus on improved governance.
3. Develop critical thinking skills to assess the opportunity costs associated with technological interventions in governance.
4. Propose evidence-based public policy solutions to address governance challenges, prioritising social interactions and long-term policy interventions for sustainable development.

Course Schedule

Unit I	Sessions: 5	Science Technology and Society Studies

Session I: Introduction to Science Technology and Society Studies: Provides an overview of the interdisciplinary field of Science, Technology, and Society (STS) studies, examining how scientific advancements and technological innovations intersect with social dynamics and cultural contexts.

Session II & III: Social Shaping of Technology: The theoretical frameworks proposed by Prof MacKenzie (University of Edinburgh) and Prof Wajcman (Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics) to understand how technology is not predetermined but shaped by social forces.

Session IV: Social Construction of Technology: The theory proposed by Prof Pinch (Cornell University) developing the concept that technology is socially constructed through human interactions and interpretations.

Session V: Actor-Network Theory: Proposed by r philosopher and sociologist, Prof Bruno Latour, Actor-Network Theory (ANT) views both humans and non-humans (such as technology) as actors with agency in shaping social networks. It explores how relationships and interactions between these actors contribute to the construction of socio-technical systems.

Unit II	Sessions: 7	Digital Governance in India

Session VI: Introduction to theories of Digital Governance, e-participation, and Digital Exclusion

Session VII: Evolution of India's Digital Governance Landscape: In this session, students will go through the evolution of India's Digital Governance landscape, including the birth of the Digital Governance ecosystem and infrastructure and surrounding policies.

Session VIII: Case Study Discussion: Evaluation of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA Rankings) Methodologies and its Impact from STS Perspective

Session IX: Conceptual Understanding of Digital Identity and its impact on society from Society and Technology Determinism Framework.

Session X: Revisiting Digital Identities from the Lens of Panoptic Disciplining and Governance Efficiency Discourse

Session XI: Paper Discussion: Digital Objects, Digital Subjects: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Capitalism, Labour and Politics in the Age of Big Data

Session XII: Research Paper Discussion: The role of digital governance on carbon emission performance

Unit III	Sessions: 7	Public Service Delivery

Session XIII & XIV: Field Visit to the Parliament & Discussion: Digital Sansad & its impact on the legislative governance process.

Session XV: Mid-Term Evaluation

Session XVI: Case Study Discussion: Benefits and Challenges of Digital Public Service Delivery (e-PDS)

Session XVII: Case Study Discussion: Electronic Voting Machine

Session XVIII: Research Paper Discussion: The role of digital governance on carbon emission performance

Session XIX: Case Study Discussion on UIDAI (Prof Jean Dreze and Prof Reetika Khera)

Unit V	Sessions: 5	Emerging Technological Landscapes

Session XX: Report Discussion: Role of e-Participation Platform in Shared Decision-Making and the Challenges of Internet Shutdown

Session XXI: Guest Lecture: Benefits & Challenges of Digital Governance

Session XXII: Guest Lecture: India and Digital Currency regulations, benefits and challenges

Session XXIII: Case Study Discussion: Governance in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Web 3.0 - Revisiting the Challenges of Digital Exclusion vs Need for Improved Governance

Session XXIV: Class Presentations