Digital Technologies and Policy (STEP0012)

**Description**

The remarkable innovation in digital technologies that characterises our time is **exciting and full of potential**. There are more ways that the human condition can be improved and enhanced through technology than we can imagine, not just on an individual level but in terms of addressing the challenges mapped out by the Sustainable Development Goals; solving the food crisis, halting climate change, equalising the distribution of wealth. Putting the right conditions in place for creative, intelligent and positive change is a key element of pursuing this huge potential and it’s an **extremely complex task**.

Policy making for digital technologies, whether in government, the private sector or any other organisation, involves **balancing wide ranging interests, values, and power dynamics** to try and arrive at a plan that will best promote the stated objectives. With so many options on the table, so many possible futures and so many interdependencies, how do those in decision-making or advisory roles know which way to turn? The implications of digital technology policies are wide-ranging that these people need a **broad understanding of many issues** while also, some kind of **deep specialisation** that allows them to interpret and understand the complexities they face.

This module is **not oriented to providing answers**. It is oriented to helping you recognise what the right questions to ask are. We will **push your critical thinking, challenge your positions**, and help you to **better understand** how your own values and ideas about the world shape your perceptions of what constitutes ‘good’ digital technology policy. In doing so, we will help you become the kind of creative thinkers that are really required for these jobs.

However, if you are not enrolled in the STEaPP MPA, we will provide additional recommended readings to help you develop your understanding of public policy.

**Key information**

- **Year**: 2020/21
- **Credit value**: 15 (150 study hours)
- **Delivery**: UG L6, Campus-based
- **Reading List**: [View on UCL website](#)
- **Tutor**: Prof Madeline Carr
- **Term**: Term 2
- **Timetable**: [View on UCL website](#)

**Assessment**

- Coursework: 40.0%
- Coursework: 60.0%

**Find out more**

For more information about the department, programmes, relevant open days and to browse other modules, visit [ucl.ac.uk](http://www.ucl.ac.uk)
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- **Delivery**: PGT L7, Campus-based
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