

Final Exam Guidelines

You have **3 hours** to complete this **closed-book** final exam. The exam consists of 4-5 **essay prompts**. Your task is to choose and answer any 3 of them.

Your answers should be as **clear and comprehensive** yet **concise** as possible. They should cover the most important “key points” - discussing the relevant issues, and synthesizing the knowledge of the topic you have acquired throughout the course. In particular, your answers should incorporate the understanding you acquired through lectures, discussions, assigned readings, and homework assignments.

Do not forget to number your answers with the corresponding question number. It is preferred for answers to be written in **English**.

Sample Essay Prompts

Write an essay about the promise and challenges of deliberation using digital technologies. How do the two platforms you used in your homework assignments (HotCRP and Loomio) support, or fail to support, effective deliberation? Explore their similarities and differences, strengths and weaknesses, and how they might be improved. Also briefly discuss one or two other alternative deliberation mechanisms covered in lectures and reading assignments, such as randomly-sampled juries.

Write an essay on the advantages and disadvantages, including risks and challenges, of remote electronic voting. Include a discussion of at least one possible solution for each of the issues you raise. As part of the essay, describe a scheme involving the use of a DAO to manipulate the outcome of an election and how such an attack might be mitigated.

Online social networks have become an integral technology that mediates exposure of users to news and information. Discuss online social networks in the context of democratization of access to information. As part of the essay, discuss in what ways this form of democratization satisfies or does not satisfy Dahl’s criteria of democracy. Also discuss the issue of polarization in online social networks due to echo chambers and filter bubbles. What do they mean for democratization of access to information?

The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly increased the importance of online communication and participation. One of the central issues for remote interactions is online identity. Write an essay about two approaches to online identity, by presenting each approach and discussing in general its weaknesses and strengths with respect to misuse

resistance and privacy protection. For each of these two approaches discuss a specific and concrete situation in which the approach is well suited to manage online identities, and one concrete situation to which the approach is not suited.