

The Digital Revolution: Legal and Economic Implications
Instructor: Jeffrey A. Eisenach

Overview: This course focuses on the implications of the digital revolution for government and governing, with an emphasis on legal issues, in three major sections. First, the course provides an historical overview of the relationship between economic and social institutions, on the one hand, and government and legal institutions on the other, with a focus on the relationship between the industrial revolution and the growth of what John Kenneth Galbraith called the "industrial state." Next it turns to the nature of the digital revolution, the differences between the "digital age" and the industrial age and the implications for systems of law and governance. From this perspective, the course addresses specific current topics in the law of cyberspace, including privacy, restrictions on speech and economic regulation of telecommunications and the Internet.

Objective: The course is designed to give students an historical and analytical framework from which to understand the major forces now working to transform legal and governing institutions.

Readings: A diverse collection of readings ranging from Galbraith's *New Industrial State* to Drucker's *Post-Capitalist Society* to Lessig's *Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace*.

Format/Grades: The course is a combination of lectures, informal discussion and structured student participation. Grades will be based largely on two papers, one 10-15 pages, the second 20-30 pages, plus class participation.