



Missouri State
U N I V E R S I T Y

School of Defense and Strategic Studies

Spring 2026 Course Highlight

DSS 797 – Special Topic: Information Technology, National Security and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Professor Christopher Whyte

Internet Asynchronous

Periods of particularly dynamic transformation in human history have often been driven by rapid advances in information technology. Inventions like the printing press and the telegraph have sparked decades of social upheaval, foundational political change and both the dissolution and expansion of empires. This class explores the information revolutions of the present era from the midpoint of the 20th century to the present day, a period which has arguably seen the most profound restructuring of the international system around dynamic technologies like the computer, the Internet and artificial intelligence.

Aimed at a non-technical audience of policymakers and international relations scholars, the class guides students through the history, function and sociopolitical backdrop of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. By exploring how these technologies work and the broad context within which they have been developed and proliferated, this class introduces the idea that digital technologies are inherently insecure. These issues impact the full gamut of international security dynamics involving cyber conflict, automation, and the operation of actors in the grey zone between war and peace.

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