Stanford | Continuing Studies

Course Title: Technology for Social Good
Course Code: SOC 11
Instructors: Rob Reich and Lucy Bernholz

Course Summary:
Digital tools have changed the way we volunteer, give money, and organize for social good. This class looks at a range of examples, from donating digitized DNA to keeping human rights activists safe with digital tools, and looks at the opportunities and challenges of these approaches.

Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Score will be determined by student attendance and participation.

Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Weekly Outline:
All classes are discussion-based and include an invited guest speaker.

Week One, March 29:
Crowdfunding is growing rapidly across the globe. We'll consider the phenomenon writ large and learn about one platform that's aiming to change health care finance. We'll also discuss why crowdfunding could be a "gateway drug" to digital civil society.

Guest speaker: Grace Garey, Watsi.org

Assigned reading: *Bernholz, Blueprint 2015*
Lucy Bernholz, "Philanthropy and the Social Economy: Blueprint 2015," The Foundation Center
http://www.grantcraft.org/assets/content/resources/blueprint_2015.pdf

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650

Rob Reich, Class Day Lecture, (video) The Promise and Peril of the New Social Economy, Stanford, June 2011 (begins at 30:00)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Bhki3d_4Lk&feature=youtu.be

Week Two, April 5: Internet Archive
Digitizing physical assets (photos, slides, books, record albums, artwork) is now familiar to nearly everyone. Less recognized is how the simple act of digitization changes how institutions can function and who they can reach. These changes reflect the fundamentally different economic characters of digital and analog assets. The Internet Archive's goal is to make all knowledge freely available. It started in the 1990s as a "backup copy of the Internet." Now it makes, stores, and shares copies of books, music, radio, television, film, and video games. It is part of inventing a digital generation of libraries and museums.

Guest speaker: Brewster Kahle, Internet Archive (not confirmed)

Assigned reading: Bernholz, *Blueprint 2016*
Lucy Bernholz, "Philanthropy and the Social Economy: Blueprint 2016," The Foundation Center
http://www.grantcraft.org/assets/content/resources/blueprint_2016_final_web2.pdf

OPTIONAL: Lucy Bernholz, "Creating Digital Civil Society: The Digital Public Library of America," In Reich, Bernholz, and Cordelli, "Philanthropy in Democratic Societies," University of Chicago Press, 2016. (Chapter distributed in class)

No Class on April 12

Week Three, April 19: GiveWell/Open Philanthropy
Now that we book our own travel, shop for everything online, and rely on apps for just about everything, you would think it would be easier than ever to make informed philanthropic choices. And in some ways, the abundance of digital data and online access has helped. Even with data everywhere, it can still be hard to know what charitable organizations to support. GiveWell is one example of digital data-driven decision making, of, by, and for philanthropists. The class will focus on how digital data are changing how we think about philanthropic giving, and what's coming next.

Guest speaker: Alexander Berger, GiveWell (not confirmed)

Assigned reading:

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650

Week Four, April 26: Genetics Alliance
Unusual as it may sound, your body is a philanthropic resource. People have been donating blood, organs, and other body parts for decades. Our DNA and our physical tissue are, perhaps, our most personal assets. With mass digitization, the number of ways to direct or donate your DNA to medical research has increased. We'll hear about the mix of commercial (23andme), nonprofit (numerous), and open source options (Personal Genome Project), as well as consider the ways digital communities are changing medical research.

Guest speaker: Greg Biggers, Genetics Alliance and Genomera (not confirmed)

Assigned reading: Bernholz, Reich, Cordelli, *Shifting Ground*
Lucy Bernholz, Rob Reich, Chiara Cordelli
"The Shifting Ground Beneath Us: Framing Nonprofit Policy for the Next Century,"
Stanford PACS, September 2013
http://web.stanford.edu/group/pacs/cgi-bin/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Shifting-Ground.pdf

Week Five, May 3: Benetech Labs
We hear a lot about the democratizing and inclusivity-enhancing nature of digital data. They open up new definitions of working at scale. But these same resources and the ways we exchange them also present new challenges of security, privacy, ownership, and consent. We'll look at efforts to make digital data safe for use by those on the front edge of change.

Guest speaker: Jim Fruchterman, Benetech (not confirmed)

Assigned reading: Reed Hunt, *Saving Privacy*
Reed Hunt and respondents, "Saving Privacy," *Boston Review*, May 2014. Read the main article, the responses, and the author's response. Accessible online
http://bostonreview.net/forum/reed-hundt-saving-privacy

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650