

## Sample Midterm

Directions: Answer all questions. Be thorough but concise - you will not earn extra credit by forcing me to read a long, rambling, content-free paragraph. This exam is closed book, closed note, and closed computer. Cell phones, blackberries, etc must be OFF (not on vibrate or silent - they must be off); If I see you even looking at a cell phone during class, you will be required to turn in your exam at that point without finishing. Remember you are expected to have read all the readings. You should not rely on the presentations alone for this, as presenters were not required to give a thorough overview of each article.

### Questions

1. Briefly describe the way new collaborative web technologies (like wikis and blogs) are being used to improve communication and information sharing in the Intelligence Community.
2. There is a large warehouse fire. Fire departments, rescue, and police have been called in from several neighboring cities to work at the scene. List two difficulties that may arise with communication among these jurisdictions. Give a brief description of each and describe a possible solution.
3. There is a lot of hype about politicians using the internet for campaigning. Consider a candidate with a page on Facebook (which has about 65 million users). Discuss the type of audience this would reach, how that audience is representative of the voting public, and what kind of assets should be invested to maintain and update such a site. Compare this with a commercial on American Idol which had approximately 29 million viewers, or a commercial and the Barbara Walters Special which, on Feb 24th, reached 11 million viewers. You don't need to use exact demographics of the audiences, but give your assumptions and justifications for your answer.
4. Describe one success and one challenge of using distributed coordination for disaster relief among citizens as described in "Open source disaster recovery: Case studies of networked collaboration".
5. List two of the voting decision support features discussed in "Voter-centered design: Toward a voter decision support system.". Describe each and discuss how it would improve the way voters access and use relevant information.
6. In this class, we look at social context as a way to understand how people need and use information. A person may take on several roles we discussed - they could be a member of the intelligence community, a voter, a volunteer firefighter (thus first responder), and a citizen experiencing a disaster. Describe a scenario where expertise on using information in one social context may help a person access information in another social context. For example, an intelligence analyst who runs for office may use their knowledge about the information needs of that community to develop intelligence policy.