Instructor
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Preferred method of contact: email

Office Hours
• Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10am-12noon and by appointment
• Contact me via e-mail to schedule an appointment to meet. I will frequently respond as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours.

CLASS INFORMATION

Course Format: This is an online course, but asynchronous class discussion via Blackboard is required to facilitate a sense of community.

Course Requirements
You will need access to an appropriate computer with a broadband Internet connection.

Blackboard
The Blackboard course management system will be used to facilitate the class. Please visit http://www.uky.edu/Blackboard/ to learn about this system and the login requirements.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description
This course explores the socio-cultural, economic and political issues confronting communication and information professionals and the transformative impact of these issues on information policy development. The rapidly evolving communication and information infrastructure and the global shift to an information society will provide the context for the course. Within this context, emphasis will be placed on issues of access, which includes, universal service, intellectual freedom, intellectual property rights, privacy, security, advocacy, equity, and the role of library and information professionals and organizations in policy formulation.

Course Objectives
• To examine major information, communication and technology policies and policy theories shaping and impacting the national and global information society.
• To analyze the key issues that lie at the intersection of rapidly advancing global information systems and national and international information policy.
• To evaluate the socio-cultural, political and economic impacts of information policy on global civil society.
• To promote advocacy of policy issues amongst library and information professionals.

Learning Outcomes:
Students completing the course will be able to:

• Define and describe relevant aspects of information policy
• Identify stakeholders impacted by information policy development
• Critically consider the Constitutional Sections, Amendments, Acts, laws and court decisions governing information and communication in the United States.
• Critically consider specific national and global policy issues governing information, communication, and technology professions, particularly in regard to freedom of speech, intellectual property rights (copyright), information equity, standards of moral and ethical conduct, and privacy.
• Recognize, evaluate and determine emerging policy issues and how it impacts the social, cultural, political, and economic landscape.

Course Overview
The following broad topical areas will be covered in this course:

• Information policy basics and theory
• Information policy as facilitator of new levels of entry into the global economy
• Information policy as barrier to global participation in the information economy
• Current information policy issues
• Key information policy instruments
• Key Stakeholders and Agencies involved in the development of information and policies
• Policy analysis and role of policy research
• Intellectual property rights and copyright
• Privacy of personal information and ethical dilemmas
• Balancing national security and information equity
• Future prospects and key issues in Federal information policies

Course Methodology
Each week, students will be expected to:

1. Review the week's learning objectives.
2. Complete all assigned readings.
3. Read and understand any additional supplementary material that may be provided from time to time.
4. Participate in the Discussion Boards and any other on-line assignments*
5. Complete and submit all assignments by their due dates**

* Students are expected to participate in and complete weekly discussion board topics, which will be posted no later than Sunday at midnight at the start of each week. The topics will relate to the course readings and supplementary material assigned. Students will be evaluated based on the substance, facts, ideas, opinions, tone, and style of their responses. Responses will be monitored for inappropriate comments.
Students will also be expected to complete three assignments comprising of one critical response paper (Assignment 1) and two essays (Assignment 2 & Assignment 3):

**Assignment 1: Information Freedom versus Information Misuse**

“Freedom of expression is a human right and guarantor of human dignity. This right includes the freedom to seek and impart information of all kinds, and through any medium. However, preserving anonymity in appropriate contexts is an important policy objective” (The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2010).

Critically consider this statement and respond in an essay of 5 double-spaced pages. The response MUST address the issue of when sharing data – on what we read, view, listen to, and interact with – becomes invasive as opposed to interactive.

**Assignments 2 and 3: Information Privacy and the Internet Economy**

On 04/23/2010, the following notice appeared in the Federal Register, the daily journal of the United States Government. The notice was published jointly by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the International Trade Administration, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology:

“The Department of Commerce’s Internet Policy Task Force is conducting a comprehensive review of the nexus between privacy policy and innovation in the Internet economy. The Department seeks public comment from all Internet stakeholders, including the commercial, academic and civil society sectors, on the impact of current privacy laws in the United States and around the world on the pace of innovation in the information economy. The Department also seeks to understand whether current privacy laws serve consumer interests and fundamental democratic values. After analyzing the comments responding to this Notice, the Department intends to issue a report, which will contribute to the Administration’s domestic policy and international engagement in the area of Internet privacy” (Federal Register, 2010).

Building upon the concepts covered in the course, prepare an information policy recommendation for the President and Congress. Your document should:

**Assignment 2:**

i) Provide a substantive summary of the key issues, including the policy goals and tensions  
ii) Identify and define the stakeholders and their positions on the issues

**Assignment 3:**

i) Propose future policy changes related to the issues  
ii) Develop a comprehensive list of talking points to influence policymakers regarding your stance on the issue.
**Required Reading**

There are no required textbooks for this course. Required readings will be available via UK Libraries’ databases or E-Reserves.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

**Grading Parameters**

- Assignment 1: 20%
- Assignment 2: 30%
- Assignment 3: 30%
- Participation: 20%

**Grading Rubric**

The following grading rubric will be employed to evaluate student submissions:

**Written communication (50%)**

**Organization**
- Inadequate (10 %): There appears to be no organization of the essay’s contents.
- Needs Improvement (15 %): Organization of the essay is difficult to follow, due to inadequate transitions and/or rambling format.
- Adequate (20 %): The essay can be easily followed. A combination of the following is apparent: Basic transitions are used; a structured format is used.
- Professional quality (25 %): The essay can be easily followed. A combination of the following is apparent: Effective transitions are used; a professional format is used.

**Mechanics and grammar**
- Inadequate (10 %): Sentences and paragraphs are difficult to read and understand due to poor grammar or mechanics.
- Needs improvement (15 %): The essay contains numerous grammatical and mechanical errors.
- Adequate (20 %): The essay contains minimal grammatical or mechanical errors.
- Professional quality (25 %): The essay is clear and concise and contains no grammatical or mechanical errors.

**Content (50%)**

**Correctness of facts**
- Inadequate (10 %): Most facts are wrong.
- Needs improvement (15 %): Some facts are wrong.
- Adequate (20 %): Technical details are generally correct.
- Professional quality (25 %): All facts are correct, and the technical explanation is both concise and complete.

**Completeness**
- Inadequate (10 %): Did not address some of the questions.
- Needs improvement (15 %): Addressed the questions, but provided few details.
- Adequate (20 %): Address the questions, but left out some details.
- Professional quality (25 %): Addressed all questions completely.
Grading Scale
[90% – 100%] = A (Exceptional Achievement)
[80% – 89%] = B (High Achievement)
[70% – 79%] = C (Average Achievement)
[0% – 69%] = E (Failing)

Participation
Students are expected to participate in and complete weekly discussion board topics. Participation points account for 20% of the grade and are awarded for a quality post to the discussion board for each of the eight weeks of the semester. A quality post will include a substantive and thoughtful contribution to each week's discussion board topics, during that week. A quality post is both substantive (in most instances this means at least one hundred words) and thoughtful (“I agree with the author” is not a credit-worthy response). I encourage you to complete your discussion posts and other work in Word and then paste it to Blackboard. If work is composed online and there is a technology-related failure, it will likely be lost. **Please note:** Discussion board topics will be posted no later than Sunday at midnight at the start of each week.

Absences/Attendance
SLIS faculty-adopted policy on excused absence will be adopted

Submission of Course Assignments
TBD
TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Distance Learning Students are expected to have a minimum level of technological acumen and the availability of technological resources. Students must have regular access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection and audio capabilities. Internet Explorer 7 (IE) or Firefox 2.x are the recommended browsers for those using a Windows-based PC. Those using Firefox 3.x may encounter problems with assignment uploads. Those using an Apple computer with MAC OS X (10.5.x) may use Firefox 3.x or Safari 3.x.

Please be certain that your computer and/or browser allow you to view Adobe Reader documents (.pdf). Microsoft Office and other software products are free for students: https://iweb.uky.edu/MSDownload/.

As your instructor, I am your first go-to person for technology problems. If you need more immediate assistance, please contact TASC or UKIT.

Teaching and Learning Services Center (TASC)
http://www.uky.edu/TASC/; 859-257-8272

Information Technology Customer Service Center (UKIT)
http://www.uky.edu/UKIT/; 859-257-1300

Library Services
Distance Learning Services
http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS
- Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian
- Local phone number: 859 257-0500, ext. 2171; long-distance phone number: (800) 828-0439 (option #6)
- Email: dllservice@email.uky.edu

Course Reserves

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

Policies concerning academic integrity, excused absences and academic accommodations due to disability are available online at: http://www.uky.edu/CIS/SLIS/academics/policies.pdf