Instructor
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859.257.4301
Preferred method of contact: email

Office Hours
• Wednesdays: 10am-2pm 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.
• We could meet face to face, telephonically, or via Skype (Skype id: jeff.naidoo)

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 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 *
5. Complete and submit all assignments by their due dates **

* Students are expected to participate in the discussion board topics, which will be posted no later than Wednesday at midnight 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.

**Required Reading**

There are no required textbooks for this course. Required readings are available via e-Reserves. To access the material, click on “e-Reserves” on the left panel on the Blackboard course site. Browse the list and select LIS 690-221.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

**Grading Parameters**

- Assignment 1: 60 points
- Assignment 2: 100 points
- Assignment 3: 150 points
- Participation: 40 points

**Assignment Due Dates & Times**

- Assignment 1: July 01, 2011, 9 am EST
- Assignment 2: July 15, 2011, 9 am EST
- Assignment 3: July 29, 2011, 9 am EST

All assignments must be submitted by 9am Eastern Standard Time on the due dates identified above. Late submissions will not be accepted except for extenuating circumstances and prior approval by myself.

**Grading Rubric**

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

**Written communication (30 %)**

**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 (70 %)

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 (Fail)

Participation
Students are expected to participate in and complete weekly discussion board topics to earn participation points. A total of eight discussion forums will be initiated over the course of the semester, i.e., one discussion topic per week. You are required to make a post to four of the eight forums, each of which will be graded out of ten (10) points on the basis of their quality. A quality post will include a substantive and thoughtful contribution to the discussion board topic. “I agree with the author” will not be deemed a credit-worthy response.

There are no restrictions on which forum you may post to, but please make an informed selection. When you post to the discussion forum, ensure that you provide the following information in the subject line: Your surname and first name_Post number (e.g. Smith John_Post 3).

Please note that the fact that you are only required to make four quality posts to the discussion forum does not preclude you from visiting the discussion board weekly and participating (i.e., posting) in the discussion threads.

I encourage you to complete your discussion posts and other work in Notepad 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: New discussion board topics will be posted no later than Wednesday at midnight each week.

Absences/Attendance
SLIS faculty-adopted policy on excused absence will be employed.
Submission Guidelines for Course Assignments
Compose all of your written work offline using a word processing program and upload the completed document into Blackboard. Your assignments must be fully referenced and cited using APA guidelines. The preferred word processing application is MSWord. Please do not cut and paste your assignment into the submission box. Failure to follow these guidelines will negatively impact your grade for the assignment.

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 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
  • DL Interlibrary Loan Service: http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=253&lilb_id=16

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