

Course: ICT 205-201

Title: Issues in Information and Communication Technology Policy

Term: Fall 2021

Credit hours: 3

Meeting days/time/location: asynchronous, online

Instructor Information

Name: Deloris Foxworth

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Zoom Office Space: <https://uky.zoom.us/my/dfoxworth>

Office phone: (859) 562-2948

Virtual Office Hours: by appointment only

Preferred Method of Contact: email or Canvas Inbox

I try to respond within 48 hours.

Course Description

This course introduces students to the legal, political, and ethical issues confronting today's information professionals and the subsequent impact of these issues on information and communication technology (ICT) policy and law development. The rapidly evolving ICT infrastructure and the global shift to an information society will provide the context for the course. Emphasis will be placed on: policy development, information ethics, computer ethics, freedom of speech and expression online, information filtering, intellectual property, cyber law, and pertinent legal and political acts related to the present information and communication infrastructure. All of these issues are examined with respect to the global cultures from which they develop.

Course Prerequisites

None

Required Materials

All materials will be provided in Canvas.

Skill and Technology Requirements

For technical/account help, students can contact Information Technology Services by phone 859-218-HELP (4357) and via the [ITS Customer Services](https://www.uky.edu/its/customer-support-student-it-enablement/customer-services) page. (<https://www.uky.edu/its/customer-support-student-it-enablement/customer-services>)

Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing the course will be able to:

1. Define and describe relevant aspects of ICT policy.
2. Understand how systems of shared values influence the creation of laws, policies, and regulations.
3. Recognize, evaluate, and determine emerging policy issues and how they impact the ICT landscape.
4. Identify stakeholders impacted by ICT policy development.

5. Critically consider Constitutional Sections, Amendments, Acts, laws and court decisions governing information and communication technologies in the United States and abroad.
6. Critically consider specific national and global policy issues governing information, communication, and technology professions, particularly in regard to freedom of speech, information equity, and standards of moral and ethical conduct.

Course Outcomes

1. To examine the ways in which culture influences the creation and maintenance of law, policy, and regulation
2. To examine the implications of current issues and trends in the global ICT infrastructure on policy development and maintenance.
3. To evaluate the methodologies and tools for the development of contemporary ICT law and policy.
4. To analyze key issues in ICT policy related to government and private sector information, intellectual property, censorship, information equity, and information security.
5. To discuss the ethical aspects of ICT policy and law in global civil society.

Course Details

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Week 1 (Aug 23-27)	Class Overview & Defining Policy
Week 2 (Aug 30-Sep 3)	Policy Framework in the U.S.
Week 3 (Sept 6-10)	International Policy Frameworks, Code and Policy
<i>Monday, September 6-</i>	<i>Labor Day</i>
Week 4 (Sept 13-17)	Policy, Impact, and Technological Change
Week 5 (Sept 20-24)	ICTs and Free Speech
Week 6 (Sept 27-Oct 1)	Privacy & Surveillance
Week 7 (Oct 4-8)	Intellectual Property: Copyright & Fair Use
Sunday, October 10, 2021	News Brief 1 Due
Week 8 (Oct 11-15)	Intellectual Property: Patents
Week 9 (October 18-22)	Open Government
<i>October 25-26</i>	<i>Fall Break</i>
Week 10 (Oct 22-29)	e-Government & Freedom of Information
Week 11 (Nov 1-5)	Digital Divides
Week 12 (Nov 8-12)	Hacking, Hacktivism, Leaking, & Whistleblowing
Week 13 (Nov 15-19)	Information Warfare & ICTs in Conflict
<i>November 24-26</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
Week 14 (Nov 29-Dec 3)	Terrorism Online / Net Neutrality
Sunday, December 5, 2021	News Brief 2 Due
Finals Week (Dec 13-16)	Comprehensive Final Exam

Course Activities, Assignments, and Exams

This course is conducted online through Canvas. No onsite meetings are required. This course applies reading and discussion-based learning approaches, as well as investigative learning approaches, to information policy. The readings, activities, and discussions presented in the modules provide opportunities to apply abstract theories and concepts to real-world information policy challenges. Each week you will be asked to reflect on the course readings/resources for that week through online activities. I will provide clear expectations for each weekly activity on Canvas. Please plan to reflect using course materials, your own experiences, and applicable outside resources when completing activities.

Activities will vary in nature and may include Canvas discussions, Canvas surveys, Google Drive activities/collaborations, and other instructional technologies.

Class Participation

There will be participation activities that align with each lesson. Unless otherwise noted, the first part of any two-part activity is due before 11:59 pm on Wednesday. The second part or single activities will be due before 11:59 pm on Sunday unless otherwise noted. Class Participation is worth a total of 35% of your final grade. More details about specific activities will be made available on Canvas.

Weekly Quizzes

There will be weekly comprehension quizzes. These are worth a total of 20% of your final grade. More details about the quizzes will be made available on Canvas.

News Briefs

Students will be required to complete two (2) more extensive assignments based on news coverage of different ICT policy issue. More instructions regarding these assignments will be provided in Canvas prior to the submission deadlines. Students must submit each assignment on Canvas by Sunday at 11:59 p.m on the days indicated. Each News Brief will be worth 15% for a total of 30% in the two News Brief assignments.

Final Exam

The final exam is 15% of your final grade. More details about the final will be made available in class, however, it will be a cumulative test.

Written Assignment Guidelines

Course Grading

- Class Participation – 35% (details can be found in Canvas)
- News Briefs – 30% (2 @ 15% each)
- Weekly Quizzes – 20%
- Final Exam – 15%

Grading Scale

90 – 100% = A

80 – 89% = B

70 – 79% = C

60 – 69% = D

Below 60% = E

Midterm Grades

For undergraduates, midterm grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established by the University Senate and published in the [Academic Calendar](http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/academic-calendar). (<http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/academic-calendar>)

Participation and Attendance Policy

This class is a community whose success depends on *everyone's* participation. It is vital, particularly for an online class, for you to participate in order to be successful. In the event that you are unable to submit an assignment due to an emergency, you will be asked to provide official written documentation

for excused absences in order for your absence to be excused and receive a makeup assignment. **Students have 48-hours to notify the professor of an emergency.** Extensions will not be given beyond this deadline. For any emergency situation that arises, email your instructor as soon as you know about the situation when possible. Students are generally given one week to complete makeup assignments due to an excused absence upon their return without penalty.

If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to participate in the weekly requirements, please discuss this with your instructor and arrange to turn in any assignments or approved alternative assignments ahead of time. Excuses for university-sponsored activities must be made prior to such absences.

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. *Senate Rules 5.2.4.2* defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737, http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php).

Students are strongly encouraged to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the scheduled classes for the semester are missed per university policy. Please reference the definition of excused absences in the current edition of *Student Rights and Responsibilities* or on the web at http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/rules_regulations/Rules%20Versions/MASTER%20RULES%20from%20February%202012_clean.pdf

Assignment Policies

Assignment Submissions

COURSEWORK MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH CANVAS or Google Drive (based on the assignment).

Returning Assignments to Students

Feedback and grades on assignments will be available under grades in Canvas. Weekly quiz and participation grades will be posted within 5-7 days after the original due date. News Brief and final exam grades will be posted within 10-15 days after the original due date.

Students who have grade or exam concerns must request an appointment with the instructor.

Questions related to individual grades should not be posed through Canvas.

Students who wish to discuss grades or scores earned have one week from the date grades are posted to do so. Grades will not be addressed after this time period has expired. Students need to contact the professor for an appointment to discuss the issue. Students must provide a written explanation of their dispute when requesting the appointment. If the matter is unresolved after meeting with the instructor, students need to contact the director of School of Information Science. Students that do not fulfill these requirements will not be addressed and the original grades will be final.

Late Assignments

Assignments are to be submitted online on Canvas. If you submit a piece of coursework after the deadline but within 24 hours of the deadline, your grade will be reduced by 10 percent. If you submit a piece of course work more than 24 hours after the deadline, but less than 48 hours, your grade will be reduced by 20 percent. **Assignments will not be accepted after 48 hours of the deadline.**

Assignments Due during Prep Week

There will be no assignments due for this class during Prep Week. This time should be used to prepare for the comprehensive final exam.

Written Assignment Guidelines

Written assignments are to be submitted as a Word, Google Doc, or PDF format if not submitted as a text entry. Papers are to be double-spaced using a 12-point kerned font such as Times New Roman with 1 to 1.25 inch margins. You may not resubmit work that has already been used in fulfillment of the requirement of this or any other course. Rules of academic conduct require that you not use the work of others without clearly indicating it as such. **Academic misconduct may result in a lowered grade, no credit for a given assignment, or removal from the course.**

It is expected students will both consult and appropriately cite the academic and primary source literature where needed. It is imperative that students employ a variety of scholarly and primary sources on which to build their arguments. As such, you should search bibliographies in the material we are reading, use library databases, and conduct library searches to identify material on their chosen topic. Please rely on a commonly used style manual for your submissions (e.g. APA, MLA or Chicago). These are available in the Library or may be purchased through online book vendors. If you are uncertain about how to cite electronic sources, consult one of the many electronic guides to citing electronic sources available on the net. Minimal reference content includes: author (if known), date (if given), title, URL, and date accessed.

Important Notes

1. Be sure to complete readings prior to the completing weekly quizzes and participation activities.
2. You are responsible for all information, announcements, and changes addressed in classes and/or Canvas.
3. The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus during the semester, if necessary.

Academic Policy Statements

Here is a link to the University Senate-approved [Academic Policy Statements](https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/acadpolicy).
(<https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/acadpolicy>)]

Academic Offenses (Cheating, Plagiarism, and Falsification or Misuse of Academic Records)

Here is a link to the University Senate-approved [Rules Regarding Academic Offenses](https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/ao).
(<https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/ao>)

Resources

[Distance Learning Library Services](#)
[Tutoring and Coaching Resources](#)
[Resources Available to Students](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Here is a link to the University Senate-approved [Syllabus Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\)](https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/syllabus-dei). (<https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/syllabus-dei>)]

Classroom Behavior Policies

To help facilitate a positive and productive learning atmosphere for everyone in class, I encourage you to participate in classroom discussions. There may be situations in the class where you disagree about the kinds of policies that should exist. Constructive discussion about the merits of different approaches is an important part of the policy making process. Remember, however, to ensure you are respectful of your peers at all times as you contribute.

Course Recordings

The University of Kentucky Code of Student Conduct defines Invasion of Privacy as using electronic or other devices to make a photographic, audio, or video record of any person without their prior knowledge or consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress.

Meetings of this course may be recorded. All video and audio recordings of lecturers and class meetings, provided by the instructors, are for educational use by students in this class only. They are available only through the Canvas shell for this course and are not to be copied, shared, or redistributed.

As addressed in the Code of Student Conduct, students are expected to follow appropriate university policies and maintain the security of linkblue accounts used to access recorded class materials. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not enrolled in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

If the instructor or a University of Kentucky office plans any other uses for the recordings, beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. In anticipation of such cases, students may be asked to complete an “authorization of use” form by a faculty member.

Video and audio recordings by students are not permitted during the class unless the student has received prior permission from the instructor. Any sharing, distribution, and or uploading of these recordings outside of the parameters of the class is prohibited. Students with specific recording accommodations approved by the Disability Resource Center should present their official documentation to the instructor.