

ICT 205-201 – Spring 2021

Issues in Information and Communication Technology Policy

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Preferred method of contact: E-mail: I usually respond to questions 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.

Prerequisites

None

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 Objectives

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.

Required Materials

There is no required text for this class. All class readings will be made available online on Canvas.

Summary Description of Activities and Assignments

Class Participation

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.

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.

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.

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 kered 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.

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.

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.

Course Grading

Course Activities and Assignments

- 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

Mid-term Grade

Mid-term grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.uky.edu/registrar/calendar>).

Submission of 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.**

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

Discussing Grades

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.

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.

Participation 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.

Excused 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

Academic Integrity

Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed. Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Senate Rules 6.3.1 (see <http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/> for the current set of *Senate Rules*) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students

may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

Accommodations due to disability

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/>.

Policies concerning academic integrity, excused absences and academic accommodations due to disability are available online at:

<https://ci.uky.edu/sis/sites/default/files/policies.pdf>

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:

<http://download.uky.edu/>.

Please make sure your @g.uky.edu account is activated since some activities will require the use of Google. To activate your @g.uky.edu account visit this site to learn more:

<https://www.uky.edu/celt/instructional-resources/teaching-technology/google-apps>.

For technology problems please contact UK ITS.

Information Technology Customer Service Center (UKIT)

<http://www.uky.edu/UKIT/>; 859-218-4357

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 #: (800) 828-0439 (option #6)
- Email: dllservice@email.uky.edu
- DL Interlibrary Loan Service:

http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=253&llib_id=16

For more resources about online classes and student resources, visit

<http://www.uky.edu/ukonline/>

The School of Information Science has a page with a comprehensive list of technology resources here: <http://ci.uky.edu/sis/students/techtips>

Military Members and Veterans

We recognize the complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student. If you are a member of the military or a military veteran or dependent, please inform your instructor if you are in need of special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, mandatory training exercises, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran related developments can complicate your academic life. If you are aware of a complication, we will work with you and put you in contact with university staff members who are trained to assist you. Please contact the Coordinator of the University of Kentucky Veterans Resource Center at (859) 257-1148 for additional assistance. Visit <http://www.uky.edu/veterans> for more available resources.

Course Calendar

Readings will be made available on Canvas under the "Modules" section.

Date	Topic
Week 1 (January 25-29)	Class Overview & Defining Policy
Week 2 (February 1-5)	Policy Framework in the U.S.
Week 3 (February 8-12)	International Policy Frameworks, Code and Policy
Week 4 (February 15-19)	Policy, Impact, and Technological Change
Week 5 (February 22-26)	ICTs and Free Speech
Week 6 (March 1-5)	Privacy & Surveillance
Week 7 (March 8-12)	Intellectual Property: Copyright & Fair Use
News Brief 1 Due Sunday, March 14, 2021 before 11:59 pm	
Week 8 (March 15-19)	Intellectual Property: Patents
Week 9 (March 22-26)	Open Government
Week 10 (March 29-April 2)	e-Government & Freedom of Information
Week 11 (April 5-9)	Digital Divides
Week 12 (April 12-16)	Hacking, Hacktivism, Leaking, & Whistleblowing
Week 13 (April 19-23)	Information Warfare & ICTs in Conflict
Week 14 (April 26-30)	Terrorism Online / Net Neutrality
News Brief 2 Due Sunday, May 2, 2021 before 11:59 pm	
Finals Week (May 10-13)	Comprehensive Final Exam