

Issues in Information and Communication Technology Policy

ICT 205, Section 001, Spring 2018

Instructor: Prof. Bryce C. Newell
Class time and location: Tu & Th, 8:00 am – 9:15 am, L.C. Little Fine Arts Library, Room 312
Office address: 350 Lucille Little Fine Arts Library
Email: brycnewell@uky.edu
Office phone: 859.218.3415
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00am-1:00pm
Virtual office hours: During Office Hours (or by appointment) via Zoom:
<https://uky.zoom.us/j/7332000666>
Preferred method of contact: Email.

Communication and appointments policy: Contact me via e-mail to schedule an appointment to meet or to talk about the class; I will try to respond as soon as possible, usually within 24-48 hours during weekdays, or on Monday for emails sent over weekends. I will generally not check or respond to my email on weekends or holidays, so please be patient if you email me during these time periods.

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: organizational 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 it impacts the ICT landscape;
4. Identify stakeholders impacted by ICT policy development;
5. Critically consider Constitutional sections, amendments, acts, laws, and court decisions that govern 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

None. All required readings will be posted to Canvas (or linked to online, if they are open-access materials). Assigned readings are noted in the Course Schedule (on Canvas).

Canvas

The Canvas course management system will be used to facilitate the class. The course's Canvas page is at <https://uk.instructure.com/courses/1907760>. Please visit <https://www.uky.edu/canvas/> to learn about this system and the login requirements.

Computer and Internet Access

You will need access to an appropriate computer with a broadband Internet connection and a word processing program (e.g., Microsoft Word).

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Points</u>
Reading responses (2 @ 7.5 points each)	Wed. @ 11:59pm on chosen weeks	15
Participation		---
In-class	Throughout semester	7.5
Online	Throughout semester	7.5
Debate	Varies; in class	15
Final (Group) Project, deliverable 1 (mid-term)	March 8	15
Final (Group) Project, deliverable 2 (final)	---	---
Final written report/paper	April 26	30
Final presentation	April 26	10
Totals		100

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Success in this course will require student attendance and participation—in class and outside of class. The following paragraphs summarize the graded assignments for the course. Please note that there are a variety of on-campus resources for students to seek assistance on oral or written assignments, including Presentation U! (<http://www.uky.edu/presentationU/>). Please make use of the resources that are available to you, as needed.

All written assignments are due by 11:59pm on the dates indicated above. Written assignments must be submitted online via Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all assignments are submitted successfully in Canvas, so please check your submissions after submitting to ensure no errors have occurred. **All written assignments should be submitted in letter format with 12pt Times New Roman (or similar) text and single or 1.15-line spacing, and with standard (e.g., 1 inch) margins.**

Reading Responses

You will be required to submit two short (300-400 word) responses to the assigned readings over the course of the semester. There are 14 eligible weeks in the semester, but you are only required to submit

two (2) responses. For each response, you should pick one academic article from the list of assigned readings for that week (Tu+Th) and provide a thoughtful and critical reflection on the argument(s) provided by the author(s) of that paper. This will require you to 1) briefly identify and elaborate a primary argument in the chosen paper, 2) reflect on and describe the implications of that argument on society, and 3) conclude with your own normative assessment of the author’s conclusion (that is, do you agree or not agree with the author? why or why not?). Responses should be written in first person (i.e., “Based on these premises, *I* think the author’s argument is vulnerable because...” or “In my opinion...”). All responses will be submitted by posting to the class discussion board on Canvas, and posts are due by 11:59pm on Wednesday of the week in question (that is, if you choose a reading from Week 3, you will be required to submit your response by the end of day on Wednesday that week).

Participation

Throughout the term there will be various exercises and discussion opportunities in class and online via our class Discussion Boards in Canvas. Class attendance and active participation in class are expected, and online participation through the Canvas discussion boards is also expected. Participation in class is worth 7.5% of your final grade, and participation online is similarly worth 7.5% of your final grade. Participation is not simply attending class. Participation means having completed all assigned readings prior to class and arriving prepared to discuss the topics for that class period. Full points will be awarded for regular in-class and online participation (generally, *regular* will mean some form of participation, online and in-class, at least every other week). All students participating in class discussions are expected to provide relevant insight, be respectful of other classmates and their opinions, and share any relevant personal experiences that may add to the topic at hand. Students may participate online by providing thoughtful and respectful comments, suggestions, or critique to other students’ weekly reading responses. For both in-class and online participation, you should feel free to offer counter-arguments or critique, but you must do so respectfully and constructively.

Debate

You will be required to participate in one in-class debate as part of a team. The debate will be worth 15% of your final grade. Each student will be randomly assigned to a debate team of 3-4 students (depending on course enrollments). Each team will be randomly assigned to a debate date and topic. The statements to be debated will be announced at least 2 weeks prior to each debate, but teams will not know whether they will be debating the negative or affirmative case until 5 minutes prior to the debate itself. Thus, students will need to brief both sides of the case in preparation for the debates. The debates will follow a modified Lincoln-Douglas debate structure, as outlined below.

Time	Speech	Description
4 min.	Affirmative Constructive	The Affirmative reads a pre-written case.
4 min.	Cross Examination	The Negative asks the Affirmative questions about the Affirmative case.
5 min.	Negative Constructive (and first negative Rebuttal)	The Negative (almost always) reads a pre-written case and (almost always) moves on to address the Affirmative's case.
4 min.	Cross Examination	The Affirmative asks the Negative questions.
4 min.	First Affirmative Rebuttal	The Affirmative addresses both his/her opponent's case and his/her own. This speech is considered by many debaters to be the most difficult.
5 min.	The Negative Rebuttal	The Negative addresses the arguments of the previous speech and summarizes the round for the judge.
2 min.	The Second Affirmative Rebuttal	The Affirmative addresses the arguments of the previous speech and summarizes the round for the judge.
28 min.		

Final (Group) Project

In lieu of mid-term and final exams (which we will not have), you will be required to work with a group on a final class project over the course of the semester. In teams of about four students (ideally, depending on class enrollments), you will conduct a small research and policy-development project related to an issue of ICT policy represented on our course syllabus. This research project will end with a final presentation during our final class session on April 26, 2018. Students will be allowed to form their own groups of 3-4 students until February 15, 2018. Any students not in a group after that date will be randomly assigned to a group (either a new group or to a pre-existing group). You will be required to **1)** identify an issue of ICT policy that is of interest to everyone in your group, **2)** develop a research question (or questions, if they are highly-related or dependent on each other), **3)** conduct a literature review, **4)** conduct a small number of interviews (minimum of four interviews) with people outside the class (to gather insight to help address your question(s) as well as to provide you with the opportunity to get input on your chosen issue from other people who may feel differently about the issue than you do), and **5)** provide the written deliverables described below, and **6)** present your project to the rest of the class during our final class session (8 minutes, maximum; in your final presentation, include brief descriptions of the issue you chose, existing/prior research, and your research question(s), and then focus most of the presentation on your findings and conclusions).

Written deliverables:

- **Deliverable 1 (mid-term):** Due by 11:59pm on Thursday, March 8, 2018. Submit (via Canvas) your executed (completed and signed) group contract + a separate document containing:
 - 1) The names of each member of your team;
 - 2) A description of the ICT policy issue you are seeking to address;
 - 3) Your primary research question(s);
 - 4) A (preliminary) review of relevant academic literature (e.g., journal articles, conference papers, books) in which you identify 1) what research already exists that is relevant to you proposed research question(s), and 2) what gaps in the existing research your project seeks to fill;
 - 5) A preliminary research plan (including interview questions and a description of who you plan to interview).

Note: All teams will be required to complete a group contract and submit it to the instructor as part of the mid-term deliverable (Deliverable 1). This contract will outline the rules for participation in the group, including grounds for expulsion. All students must sign the contract. More details will be distributed in class.

Deliverable 2 (final): Due by 11:59pm on Thursday, April 26, 2018. Submit (via Canvas) a document containing:

- 1) The names of each member of your team;
- 2) A description of the ICT policy issue you are seeking to address;
- 3) Your primary research question(s);
- 4) A review of relevant academic literature (e.g., journal articles, conference papers, books) in which you identify 1) what research already exists that is relevant to you proposed research question(s), and 2) what gaps in the existing research your project seeks to fill;
- 5) A description of your research methods (including descriptions of your interview questions, who you interviewed, how you identified them as interviewees, etc.);
- 6) A description of your findings (from the interviews); and
- 7) A conclusion, in which you tie your findings back into the existing literature, and discuss the implications that your findings have for ICT policy (and/or how interviewing other people impacted your thinking about the issue), and provide a normative argument or recommendations for some policy-related conclusion or outcome.

The assignment is intended to be primarily an independent piece of scholarship; some additional readings, beyond those listed in this syllabus, will be necessary (and required), but comprehensive knowledge of the literature is neither expected nor desired. The point is to struggle through the issue you choose in both an empirical and conceptual way, making sense of the issues involved and the arguments that surround them, and defending a position which you find tenable on the basis of those arguments. There is no required minimum word or page length, but you must adequately address each element of the assignment as described above. Please limit your word count to no more than 4,000 words (maximum).

You will be required to include and cite at least **6 outside, academic sources** in your paper (e.g., academic journal articles, conference papers, or books). Popular media, news articles, Wikipedia, and other non-academic sources are fine (when used appropriately), but they **do not** count towards the minimum required sources noted in the previous sentence.

As a possible outline for your final report, please consider something like the following:

- I. **Introduction** – provide your thesis statement and overview of your findings and conclusions
- II. **Literature review** – including academic literature relevant to your project (what research already exists? What gaps need to be filled?)
- III. **Methods** - Description of how you accomplished the empirical portion of the project
- IV. **Findings** - Present and summarize your empirical findings
- V. **Discussion** – discuss how your findings inform/are informed by the academic literature you discussed earlier, and what their implications might be for ICT policy
- VI. **Conclusion** – provide a summary and at least some normative recommendations

LATE SUBMISSIONS

If you submit a piece of coursework after the deadline but within 24 hours of the deadline, your mark will be reduced by 25 percent (i.e. you will receive 75 percent of what you would have received if the assignment was turned in on time). Assignments turned in more than 24 hours (but less than 48 hours) after the deadline will receive a 50 percent deduction. Assignments turned in 48 or more hours late will not be accepted and will not be graded (i.e. you will get zero points for that assignment). The only exceptions to these rules will be for excused absences, which will be handled according to University policies (see Senate Rule 5.2.4.2; more details are outlined below in the General Course Policies section of the syllabus) and for situations where the instructor deems an extension reasonable.

COURSE GRADING

Undergraduate Grading Scale

- [90% – 100%] = A (Exceptional Achievement)
- [80% – 89%] = B (High Achievement)
- [70% – 79%] = C (Average Achievement)
- [60% – 69%] = D (Below Average Achievement)
- [00% – 59%] = F (**Fail**)

Grading Rubric for Written Assignments

The following grading rubric will be employed to evaluate submitted written assignments:

- Written communication (50%)
- Organization (25% possible)

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

Mechanics and grammar (25% possible)

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

Content (50%)

Correctness of facts (25% possible)

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

Completeness (25% possible)

- Professional quality (25%): Addressed all questions completely.
- Needs improvement (15%): Addressed the questions, but provided few details.
- Adequate (20%): Address the questions, but left out some details.
- Inadequate (10%): Did not address some of the questions.

Midterm Grade Policy

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

Final Exam Information

There is no final exam in this class, although we will have a final (group) project due at the end of the semester. Please see the summary of the final project above for more details.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

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>.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend every class session. Some assignments (e.g., Case Briefing) require attendance, and excessive unexcused absences may result in a lower grade. If a student misses 20% or more of the class (6 or more class sessions), the student will fail the course and will be expected to withdraw from the course (SR 5.2.4.1-2) (Senate Rules are available online at <http://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/>). This class is a community whose success depends on everyone's participation, and it is vital for you to attend class in order to be successful. If you are absent on a day

when an assignment is due, you will be allowed to hand in or make up that work only if the absence is officially excused. You will be asked to provide official written documentation for excused absences the next time you are in class in order for your absence to be excused. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent from class with an excused absence, please discuss this with your instructor and turn in any assignments ahead of time. Excuses for university-sponsored activities must be made prior to such absences. For any emergency situation that arises, email your instructor as soon as you know about the situation when possible. No make-up work is available for in-class exercises unless approved in advance by your instructor. Students have one week to complete a missed assignment or quiz due to an excused absence upon their return without penalty.

Excused Absences (S.R. 5.2.4.2)

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. Senate Rule 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.

If a student has excused absences in excess of one-fifth of the class contact hours for that course, a student shall have the right to petition for a "W", and the Instructor of Record may require the student to petition for a "W" or take an "I" in the course. [US: 2/9/87; RC: 11/20/87]

Per Senate Rule 5.2.4.2, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

Verification of Absences

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism

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.

Group Work & Student Collaboration

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are expected to be done by the individual student. Students are only allowed to collaborate on assignments when explicitly allowed by the instructor or syllabus.

Incompletes

Student requests for an Incomplete (an I grade) will be considered within University guidelines and only in extreme circumstances. See section 5.1.3.2 <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>.

Classroom Behavior

Students are expected to full participate in class. This means having completed all assigned readings prior to class and arriving prepared to discuss the topics for that class period. Participation also includes activity on our Canvas site used to facilitate in-class activities. All students participating in class room discussions are expected to provide relevant discussion, be respectful of other classmates and their opinions, and share any relevant personal experience that may add to the topic at hand. You are encouraged to make your own arguments and state your own opinions about relevant issues we cover in class, but you must do so in a way that respects opposing points of view and does not belittle or denigrate the opinions of others in the class. Additionally, you should be prepared to present and defend the premises of (or logical reasons behind) your arguments and to not simply state conclusions.

Technology use in the classroom

You may use laptops and other devices in the classroom for class-related purposes (completing in-class assignments, reviewing class readings or other lecture and class related materials, etc.). The use of smartphones, tablets, laptops, or other technologies in the classroom for non-class-related activities is not allowed. Violations of this policy may result, at the discretion of the instructor, in changes to this policy and/or penalties to students' participation grades for the course.

Academic 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/>.

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/>.

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

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 (opt. #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.