# Issues in Information and Communication Technology Policy

## ICT 205, Section 001, Spring 2019

**Instructor:**                              Prof. Bryce C. Newell
**Class time and location:**     Tu & Th, 8:00am – 9:15am, Little Fine Arts Library, Room 312
**Office address:**                    341 Lucille Little Fine Arts Library (LCLI)
**Email:**                                    brycenewell@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 contact method:**  Email.
**Communication and appointments policy:** Contact me via e-mail to schedule an appointment
to meet or to talk about the class (if outside office hours); 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/1946250. 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

| Assignment | Deadline | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Class Participation | Varies | 15 |
| Debate | Varies; in class | 10 |
| Exams (2 @ 15% each) | Mar. 5, Apr. 25 | 30 |
| Policy Memos (3 @ 8% each) | TBD | 24 |
| App Policy Project | May 1 | 21 |
| Presentation | | (8) |
| Written Proposal | | (13) |
| **TOTAL** | | **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.

**Written Assignments**
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. All written assignments are due by 11:59pm on the dates indicated in this syllabus, unless otherwise noted. Written assignments must be submitted online via Canvas through the regular assignment submission portal. **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.

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 internet. Minimal reference content includes: author (if known), date (if given), title, URL, and date accessed.

## *Class Participation*
Participation in classes in expected, and such participation generally requires that you have done the assigned readings prior to class. Your participation grade will be divided into two types:
> General participation (7.5%): To receive full credit for participation, students should be prepared to regularly ask questions, respond to questions, or comment during regular and guest lectures. Failure to do so will result in grade reductions.
> Reading Group Leadership (7.5%): You will be assigned to a reading group for the semester. As part of the reading group, you will be required to lead a 10-minute discussion of the assigned readings (on an assigned day). You should come prepared to generate discussion (including asking questions of your group members to help facilitate the discussion), which should last for at least 10 minutes. **Prior to the class starting on your assigned leadership day, you should submit (via Canvas) a short (~250 word) summary of each reading as well as your list of prepared questions for your group.**

## *Debate*
You will be required to participate in one in-class debate as part of a team. 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 judges. |
| 2 min. | The Second Affirmative Rebuttal | The Affirmative addresses the arguments of the previous speech and summarizes the round for the judges. |
| **28 min.** | | |

### *Exams*
Students will be responsible for all of the information contained in the readings, lectures and other in-class presentations. Examinations generally may consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions in which it will be necessary for students to spot the issue in the facts provided and, using what we have discussed in class, analyze and answer the question. Students are expected to be present and on time for each scheduled examination. Only in instances where there is an excused absence will a make-up be given. A student seeking to be excused must present to the professor written evidence of an excusable absence such as personal illness or death in the family. Other excuses must be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Except during periods of extreme weather conditions, no extra time will be given to examination latecomers.

### *Policy Memos*
Three times during the semester, students will be required to respond to a set of writing prompts on different ICT policy-related issues. The prompts will relate to concepts being in discussed in class, policy issues related to the Final App Policy Project, and/or emerging developments in ICT-policy-related news that emerge during the semester. Each memo will specifiy its specific requirements, and will be distributed in class, but the requirements of each will require students to 1) recognize, define, and describe relevant aspects of ICT policy; 2) reflect on the connections between culture, society, and these policies; 3) identify impacted stakeholders (including marginalized communities or those in the Global South who may be affected by these policies or technological developments); 4) critically analyze relevant domestic and international laws; and 5) propose one or more normative policy recommendations (supported by defensible logical argumentation). (More information to be distributed in class.)

### *App Policy Project*
Students will be placed into groups and will develop a proposal for an imaginary smartphone app (with social networking and/or communication-related functions) as an alternative to an existing service. In doing so, students will be required to analyze the potential ICT-related policy implications and issues raised by the existing app/service and develop a set of terms and conditions (T&C) that will differentiate their proposed app (e.g., on issues of data collection and sharing, privacy, intellectual property, or content moderation). Students will draft a formal proposal and will formally pitch their app (and its differentiating terms and conditions of use) to their classmates (posing as potential investors), in-class, during the final exam period. (More information to be distributed in class.)

**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/calendar).


**Final Exam Information**
There is no formal, written final exam in this class, although we will have a final (group) project due at the end of the semester and which will be presented during our scheduled final exam period. The final exam is scheduled for May 1, 2019 from 10:30am–12:30pm (http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/spring-final-exam-schedule). Please see the summary of the final project above for more details.


**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

We will follow the course schedule posted on Canvas, and you should consult that schedule regularly as some elements may change slightly throughout the semester due to a variety of factors, including new developments in ICT policy that will no doubt arise during the semester. However, the following tentative schedule of topics (for assignment due dates, see the Summary of Assignments, above) shows the general progression we will follow:

1. Introduction and overview of the course
2. Information and information policy
3. Information ethics
4. Regulating by and with technology
5. Privacy and data protection
6. Surveillance
7. Free speech and censorship
8. Content moderation on social media
9. Intellectual property
10. Access to information
11. Cybercrime


**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 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**
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, (e) interviews for graduate/professional school or full-time employment post-graduation, and (f) 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.

In situations where a student's total EXCUSED absences exceed 1/5 (or 20%) of the class periods scheduled for the semester, students are strongly encouraged to withdraw (take a "W") from the class as per university policy. If a student has excused absences in excess of one-fifth of the class contact hours for that course, the student shall have the right to receive a 'W', or the Instructor of Record may award an 'I' for the course if the student declines to receive a 'W.'

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.

## 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/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.