



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Information

LIS5411 – INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION POLICY
SECTIONS 1 AND 2
SPRING 2016, THURSDAYS 8-10 P.M., COLLABORATE
MODE OF INSTRUCTION: Online

Instructor: Professor Michelle Kazmer
Email: mkazmer@fsu.edu
Office: 242A Louis Shores Building
Phone: 850-559-2421
Course Location/Website: Blackboard
Office Hours (in office, online or via phone): By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines selected fundamental policy questions regarding information and communications, with special attention to intricate policy issues such as information ownership rights, privacy rights, and public access to information. The course will examine such issues by focusing on the underlying constitutional principles, laws and regulations, statutes, and government policies that impact such issues. Specific attention will be given to federal policies within the United States but state and local policies will be examined as needed. Specific course topics will include universal service, information equity, privacy, intellectual property, censorship, e-government, and information management. The course focuses on providing information professionals with a fundamental understanding of the importance and impact of information policy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand policy issues such as access rights, proprietary rights, consumer rights and privacy rights in the information policy arenas;
2. Distinguish between constitutional provisions, statutes, laws, regulations and federal policies relating to selected information policy issues;
3. Research information-related topics within the policy arena;
4. Understand policy issues that are of interest to information professionals;
5. Analyze and describe information policy issues;
6. Demonstrate a broad understanding of major domestic information and telecommunications policy issues;
7. Express familiarity with significant literature, constitutional provisions, statutes, domestic laws, regulations and government policies relating to information policy issues;
8. Analyze and describe information policy issues;

9. Illustrate an understanding of key information and telecommunications policy issues such as information access rights, universal service, and privacy;
10. Operate effectively within a group context to develop a research proposal on an important policy issue.

COURSE MATERIALS:

This course will primarily make use of academic journal articles, research reports, and government documents. The materials will all be available either through online databases through the FSU library or on publically available websites. Readings will be assigned and posted to the course Blackboard site.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

The course is worth a total of **100 points** as follows:

- **Group discussions in class with reporting in class 25 points:** Five classes will be divided into two parts. The first part will be an instructor-led discussion of the topic. During the second part, small groups of 4-6 students will discuss an assigned topic or complete a group activity. These discussions/activities will be graded and each actively participating member of the group will receive the group grade. Students who are not in attendance in the group sessions, or who do not participate actively and consistently, cannot receive a grade for the group assignment. All groups will have their own Collaborate rooms. Students with an excused absence should ask for an opportunity for make-up work, no later than the week before spring break or when the excused absence ends, whichever comes first.
- **Policy Position Paper 25 points:** Each student will choose an information policy topic and write a 900-1100 word paper that describes their position regarding the topic. This paper should clearly express the writer's position regarding the topic and be supported by research sources.
- **Policy Brief Proposal 10 points:** Students will work individually to propose a topic of research in a preliminary paper. This topic paper will discuss the topic that the student wishes to explore, present a short review of the literature, describe the main issues that will be explored, and also include a preliminary outline to be reviewed. The purpose of this paper is to help you get started on the policy brief and to get initial feedback from the instructor while there is sufficient time to make changes. The policy brief topic paper will be 500-600 words in length.
- **Online Discussions of Policy Brief Topics 15 points:** Three weeks will include asynchronous discussion board interactions among sets of students whose policy briefs are on similar topics. The instructor will provide guidance for the type, content, and amount of participation needed.
- **Individual Policy Brief 25 points:** Each student will prepare a policy brief that focuses on a topic of information policy (determined by the policy brief proposal and subsequent revisions based on feedback, discussions, etc.). The policy brief will be approximately 1500-2000 words in length. The brief will explore the major issues of a topic of information policy, provide a literature review of important sources, and highlight major points of contention within the

policy arena. The point of the brief is to communicate the important facts and issues surrounding a specific policy issue to a high-level policy maker. Therefore, the brief must be thorough but concise and be supported by legitimate sources and resources whenever possible.

GRADE CALCULATION:

Group Discussions In Class (5x5)	25
Policy Position Paper	25
Policy Brief Proposal	10
Online Discussions of Policy Brief Topics (3x5)	15
Policy Brief	25
Total	100

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION POINT BASED GRADING SCALE:

A	93 - 100	C	73 – 76
A-	90 – 92	C-	70 – 72
B+	87 – 89	D+	67 – 69
B	83 – 86	D	63 – 66
B-	80 – 82	D-	60 – 62
C+	77 – 79	F	0 – 59

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Class Date		Topic
First Day Attendance	1/7	First day attendance and brief introductions of ourselves, the instructor, and the class environment
Week 1	1/14	Introduction to the Course
Week 2	1/21	Foundations of Information Policy
Week 3	1/28	Policy Resources
Week 4	2/4	Digital and Policy Divides
Week 5	2/11	Disability and Accessibility
Week 6	2/18	E-government and Access Issues
Week 7	2/25	Freedom of Information and Transparency Issues
Week 8	3/3	Intellectual Freedom
		FSU SPRING BREAK
Week 9	3/17	Privacy, Secrecy, and Security
Week 10	3/24	Creating Policy
Week 11	3/31	Copyright and Intellectual Property
Week 12		[online policy brief discussion only]
Week 13	4/14	Information Collection
Week 14	4/21	Course Conclusion and Wrap up

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:

Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with, and for the duration of, the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the *Technology, Education, And Copyright Harmonization* (TEACH) Act (refer to the 3/7/2001 TEACH Act at www.copyright.gov/legislation/archive/).

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY:

It is the policy of the University that its employees and students neither commit nor condone sexual harassment in any form. http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/grad/info/university_notices.htm

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:

A list of all hardware and software requirements for students participating in the School of Information courses can be found at the following location:
<http://ischool.cci.fsu.edu/academics/online/requirements/>

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR AN INCOMPLETE GRADE:

Incomplete ("I") grades will not be assigned, except in the case of exceptional unforeseen circumstances that occur within the last three weeks of the semester and your work has otherwise been satisfactory (C average).

University Attendance Policy:

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy:

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.)

Americans With Disabilities Act:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Syllabus Change Policy

"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."