

**ICT 205 - Online**  
**Issues in Information and Communication Technology Policy**

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**Office hours:** Monday & Tuesday, 2:00-4:00pm & by appointment  
**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.

### **Course Activities and Assignments**

- Class Participation – 25% (8 @ 3.125% each)
- News Briefs – 15% (2 @ 7.5% each)
- Quizzes – 30% (3 @ 10% each)
- Final Exam – 30%

### **Summary Description of Course 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 course materials 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 materials for that week in online discussion boards. I will provide discussion questions based on the readings and activities for the week. You are encouraged to draw on personal experiences and external literature and resources to support your commentary.

The discussion boards become active on Monday mornings for that week and close on Sunday night at 11:59 P.M. (For example, “Week 2” discussion boards will open on Monday, Sep 2 and will close on Sunday, Sep 8).

Each week that you do not have another assignment due, you must post an *original* post responding to one or more discussion questions (about 150 words) by Sunday night (11:59pm). You may post multiple responses, but at least one of your posts needs to be a minimum of 150 words (the others can be shorter if you wish). Draw on the course readings, outside resources, and personal experiences to frame your arguments/comments.

Each week that you do not have another assignment due, you must also post at least one *substantive* reply to other students’ posts and comments by Sunday night (11:59pm) (about 75-150 words for each response). Please be respectful and professional when you reply to each other.

Discussion posts are conversational and do not have to follow the same rigor as other writing you will do for this course. However, you are still expected to proofread them and to be professional in your interactions with others.

Discussion post grades will be graded using the following rubric:

Original posts for the week engage the prompts thoughtfully.	X / 20
Original posts for the week back ideas and conclusions with evidence.	X / 20
Original posts for the week introduce the student's own ideas.	X / 20
Response posts for the week engage thoughtfully and with substance to others.	X / 20
Original and response posts for the week use correct grammar, punctuation, and are written in a clear and concise manner.	X / 20

### **News Briefs**

Twice during the semester, students will be required to complete and submit a news article dealing with an ICT policy issue, along with a brief 500-word explanation of how the news article relates to readings or court cases discussed in class. Students must submit their assignments on Canvas by Sunday at 11:59 p.m on the weeks indicated.

### **Quizzes**

Quizzes are worth 25% of your final grade. More details about the quizzes will be made available in class.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam is 30% 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**

Written assignments are to be written in Word or Open Office format. 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.

### **Course Grading**

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>).

### **Important Notes**

1. Be sure to complete readings prior to the class meeting.
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.

### **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.**

### **Discussing Grades**

Students who have grade or exam concerns must approach the professor during office hours, or through appointment. Once grades are posted online, you may visit the professor during office hours or by appointment to review your work. Please contact the professor if you do not find grades posted.

**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 bring a written explanation of their dispute with them to this appointment. If the matter is still unresolved, 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.

### **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 the next time you are in class in order for your absence to be excused. **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 a missed assignment due to an excused absence upon their return without penalty.

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.

### **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](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](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](mailto: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/>.

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 (option #6)
- Email: [dllservice@email.uky.edu](mailto:dllservice@email.uky.edu)
- DL Interlibrary Loan Service:  
[http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb\\_id=253&llib\\_id=16](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	Assignment
Week 1 (Aug 26 – Sep 1)	Class Overview: What is Policy and Why Should We Care?	Introduce yourself in the discussion boards!
Week 2 (Sep 2 – Sep 8)	Policy Frameworks in the U.S.	Discussion posts
Week 3 (Sep 9 – Sep 15)	International Policy Frameworks, Code as Policy	Discussion posts
Week 4 (Sep 16 – Sep 22)	History of ICTs and Regulation in the U.S.	Quiz 1 – Due Sunday, by Sep 22
Week 5 (Sep 23 – Sep 29)	ICTs and Free Speech	Discussion posts
Week 6 (Sep 30 – Oct 6)	Privacy & Surveillance	News Brief 1 – Due Sunday, 10/6.
Week 7 (Oct 7 – Oct 13)	Intellectual Property: Copyright & Fair Use	Discussion posts
Week 8 (Oct 14 – Oct 20)	Intellectual Property: Patents	Quiz 2, due by Sunday, 10/20.
Week 9 (Oct 21 – Oct 27)	Open Government	<i>Optional Extra Credit</i>
Week 10 (Oct 28 – Nov 3)	e-Government & Freedom of Information	Discussion posts
Week 11 (Nov 4 – Nov 10)	Digital Divides	Discussion posts
Week 12 (Nov 11 – Nov 17)	Hacking, Hacktivism, Leaking, & Whistleblowing	Quiz 3, due by Sunday, 11/17.
Week 13 (Nov 18 – Nov 24)	Information Warfare & ICTs in Conflict	News Brief 2 – Due Sunday, 11/24.
Week 14 (Nov 25 – Dec 1)	***THANKSGIVING BREAK	Nothing, enjoy your Thanksgiving!
Week 15	Terrorism Online	Discussion posts



(Dec 2 – Dec 8)		
Week 16 (Dec 9 – Dec 15)	The Future of ICT Policy	Final Exam Due Sunday, Dec 15 by 11:59 P.M.

***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.