



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Library & Information Studies

LIS5411 – INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION POLICY

SECTION(S)

SUMMER 20XX, COURSE MEETING DAY/TIME, COURSE MEETING LOCATION

MODE OF INSTRUCTION:

Instructor:

Email:

Office:

Phone:

Course Location/Website:

Office Hours (in office, online or via phone):

Teaching Assistant:

Email:

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 **1000 points** as follows:

- **Group Assignments (150pts):** Several classes will be divided into two parts. The first part will be an instructor-led discussion of the topic. The second part of the class will be a small group discussion or activity. During this portion of the class, small groups of 3-4 students will work together to discuss the topic or to complete a group activity. Several of these assignments will be focused on assisting in completing the group policy paper. Others will assist students in understanding the week's topic. These assignments will be graded and each member of the group will receive the group grade. Students who are not in attendance in the group sessions and do not participate cannot receive a grade for the group assignment. All groups will have their own Collaborate sites and Blackboard resources to facilitate communication, file sharing, and interaction.
- **Policy Position Paper (250pts):** Each student will choose an information policy topic and write a 4-page (double-spaced) 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. This will be an individual assignment.
- **Group Policy Brief Topic Paper (200pts):** Students will work in small groups to propose a topic of research in a preliminary paper. This short paper will describe the research area that the group wishes to explore for the policy brief. This topic paper will discuss the topic that the group 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 groups 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 five pages (double-spaced) in length.
- **Group Policy Brief (300pts):** Groups will prepare a policy brief that focuses on a topic of information policy of the group's choosing. The policy brief will be approximately 15-20 pages (double-spaced) 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.

- Participation (100pts):** Participation during the class discussion and the group sessions is extremely important. Groups may need to meet online more often than Monday nights in order to produce high quality products. Near the end of the semester students will assess their own participation during the group sessions and the participation of each member of their group. A student's average participation score will be used to determine the number of participation points received. Students who do not complete a peer evaluation for themselves and/or their peers will have points deducted from their own participation score. Students who do not complete any evaluations will not receive any points for participation. Similarly, failure to participate in participate activities or to contribute to group assignments may result in omission of all points for those assignments.

GRADE CALCULATION:

Group Assignments	150
Policy Position Paper	250
Group Policy Brief Topic Paper	200
Group Policy Brief	300
Participation	100
Total	1,000

SLIS POINT BASED GRADING SCALE:

A	930 - 1000	C	730 – 769
A-	900 – 929	C-	700 – 729
B+	870 – 899	D+	670 – 699
B	830 – 869	D	630 – 669
B-	800 – 829	D-	600 – 629
C+	770 – 799	F	0 – 599

SUMMER COURSE SCHEDULE:

Class Date	Topic
Week 1	Introduction to the Course
Week 2	Foundations of Information Policy
Week 3	Memorial Day – No Class
Week 4	Digital and Policy Divides
Week 5	Telecommunication Issues and Policies
Week 6	E-government and Access Issues
Week 7	Freedom of Information and Transparency Issues
Week 8	Intellectual Freedom
Week 9	Privacy, Secrecy, and Security
Week 10	Information Collection
Week 11	Copyright and Intellectual Property
Week 12	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/>

Free Tutoring from FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

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."