

Spring 2016
RTV5702
Telecommunications Regulation
1074 Weimer Hall
Thursday, 9:35am-12:35pm

Instructor: Dr. Jasmine McNealy

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am and by appointment

This course presents an advanced, interdisciplinary discussion of telecommunication and information law, policy, and regulation, covering wireline and wireless telephony, cable and satellite, the Internet and other ICTs. In examining these topics, we will emphasize the intersection of technology, economics, public policy, and human and organizational behavior in the environment of electronic media. Ultimately the course investigates the justifications for, and approaches to, current law and regulation impacting the telecommunication and information sectors with the following objectives in mind:

- To understand the foundational principles of telecommunication and information policy
- To learn key laws and regulations that shape U.S. electronic media policy and about the agencies responsible for their creation and enforcement
- To develop a framework to assist with the critical evaluation of current and future/proposed policies, as well as proposing improvements to these policies
- To research and write policy papers that effectively advance evidence-based positions on current and future/proposed policies and debates
- To understand how telecommunication and information policy affects people and organizations

To successfully achieve these goals students are required to attend and be prepared for class each week. As an “advanced” graduate class, the emphasis will be on critical discussion of the readings. It is, therefore, imperative that all students have completed the readings before class and come to class prepared to contribute to the discussion. We will pursue a collaborative model of learning, which means that students are active participants in the production of knowledge, collectively as a class, in teams, and individually.

Course Requirements

All readings will be made available through Canvas, UF Libraries e-Reserve, or UF library databases (requires login if off campus)

Discussion leader (15%): Every student will choose one week during the semester to be the discussion leader. The discussion leader presents (15-20 minutes) on a current event/situation/debate related to the topic we are covering in class that week. Students should do some background research on the topic and be able to spark discussion among their

classmates. Students should contact the professor no later than one week prior to their chosen date to discuss what they will be presenting. Sign-up will be the first week of class.

Reading Notes/Questions (15%): As part of their preparation for class each week, all students must post to the Canvas forum 5-7 questions/points of further discussion based on all of the readings for that week by the end of the day before class (in this case Wednesday). These questions should summarize and/or reflect on key arguments, contributions, and questions raised by the reading set. These questions will form the basis of our in-class discussions.

Policy Brief (20%): Around the end of the first third of the semester, students are required to submit a policy brief – a short examination of a particular topic that presents findings and recommendations of research. Students will be provided with a choice of topics and research data. Policy briefs should be between 1200-1500 words. Further particulars will be provided during class.

Policy Analysis Paper (50%): Each student must complete an in-depth analysis of the debates and trends surrounding a specific telecommunication or information policy issue. One way to approach this is through the discussion of one or two cases that have gone through the legal and/or policy chain. This examination can be on past, current, or potential issues. Student must first submit an outline, which provides a brief description of the policy issue, rationale for choice, references to important cases (if applicable) and a bibliography. The final paper will provide an overview of the issue (background, context), and examination of stakeholders and positions, an explanation of the importance of the issue to policy and public interest, and references. Students will workshop their papers in class before their final submission and presentation. Students may be able to work in groups of no more than three (**3**) to complete this assignment. Students are encouraged to submit a draft of their papers to a conference for presentation. Further particulars will be provided in class.

Note: Doctoral students may be able to substitute a previously unwritten chapter of their dissertation for the policy analysis paper upon approval from both the professor and their dissertation chair.

Readings and Schedule – TBD

This class will strictly adhere to the College of Journalism and Communications and the University of Florida policies on academic integrity and plagiarism.