MMC5215
Technology Policy
College of Journalism and Communications
Spring 2018
Meeting Room: G047

Instructor: Dr. Jasmine McNealy JD, PhD
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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30am -11:30am, Thursday 9:30am-11:30am, & by appointment

This course presents an advanced, interdisciplinary discussion of technology and information law, policy, and regulation. In examining these topics, we will emphasize the intersection of technology, economics, public policy, and human and organizational behavior with a particular emphasis on media technology. Ultimately the course investigates the justifications for, and approaches to, current law and regulation impacting the technology and information sectors with the following objectives in mind:

- To understand the foundational principles of technology and information policy
- To learn key laws and regulations that shape U.S. technology 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 technology 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.

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

We will have two foundational readings for the class:
- Clark, David D., John Wroclawski, Karen R. Sollins, and Robert Braden. "Tussle in cyberspace: defining tomorrow's internet." In *ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review*, vol. 32, no. 4, pp. 347-356. ACM, 2002.

- Thierer, Adam. *Permissionless Innovation: The Continuing Case for Comprehensive Technological Freedom*. Mercatus Center at George Mason University, 2016.

Course Requirements

Discussion leader (25%): Every student will choose one week during the semester to be the discussion leader. The discussion leader presents on a current event/situation/debate related to the topic we are covering in class that week, and leads the **first hour of the class period**. 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.

Op-Ed (10%): Students will complete a piece of persuasive writing on a matter of technology policy of public significance. This op-ed will be related to the findings from their larger research paper. The op-ed will be no more than 800 words. Students must submit/pitch their op-ed for publication.

Policy Analysis Paper (65%): Each student must complete an in-depth analysis of the debates and trends surrounding a specific technology or information policy issue. 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.

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.

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