
Dr. Jasmine McNealy

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352-846-0226

3062 WEIMER HALL

OFFICE HOURS: T/TH AFTER
CLASS OR BY APPT.



MEETING TIMES:

T: PERIODS 2-3

TH: 2 PERIOD



LOCATION

RNK 0110

REQUIRED TEXT:
ON CANVAS

RTV4700/CGS3065: TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAW & REGULATION/ LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN COMPUTING

Spring 2018

Course Description

Welcome! This course provides an introduction the laws and policies affecting the past, present, and future of various forms of technology used to exchange information. Digital media are posing pressing questions for legislatures and regulators. This course introduces students to the legal, political, and ethical issues confronting today's media and information professionals and the subsequent impact of these issues on media and technology policy and law development. The rapidly evolving media technology infrastructure and the global shift to an information society will provide the context for the course. Emphasis will be placed on: the U.S. Constitution, computer ethics, freedom of speech and expression, 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.

Course Objectives

This course covers a blend of technological, social, economic and legal issues in the creation of public media law & policy. The goals of this class are as follows:

- That students demonstrate an understanding of relevant laws and regulations affecting media, as well as the process for the creation and challenging of these laws.
- That students understand basic media technology and how it affects policy.
- That students demonstrate an understanding of U.S. constitutional principles relevant to media.
- That students demonstrate an understanding of the power of regulatory agencies and judicial bodies as they relate to media policy.
- That students recognize current issues in media law & policy and the effects on the use, access, and creation of new media technology.
- That students be able to practically apply all of the above in the professional context.
- That students be able to work effectively in groups to complete course assignments.

Learning Outcomes:

Students completing the course will be able to:

- Define and describe relevant aspects of US media and technology law and policy
- Understand how systems of shared values influence the creation of laws, policies, and regulations.

- Recognize, evaluate and determine emerging policy issues and how it impacts the media and technology landscape.
- Identify stakeholders impacted by law and policy development
- Critically consider constitutional amendments, acts, laws, and court decisions governing communication and technology in the United States and abroad.
- Critically consider specific national and global policy issues governing media and technology professions, particularly freedom of speech, information equity, and standards of conduct.

Course Methodology

Each week, students will be expected to:

1. Review the week's learning objectives.
2. Complete all assigned readings.
3. Read and understand any additional supplementary material that may be provided from time to time
4. Participate in class discussion.
5. Complete and submit all exams and assignments by the due dates.

Required Reading

All class readings will be made available online or through UF Libraries Course Reserve.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Grading Scale

The grade scale is as follows:

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

<p>RTV4700 **D = degree!**</p>

Grading Parameters

Squad goals:	5%
Case Brief Applications:	20%
Exams (3):	65%
Class Participation:	10%

Squad goals: Students will tackle class assignments and exams in their squads. These student groups are meant to both assist in learning the material and acquiring the valuable ability to work in teams.

Students are required to create squad goals, or what would be considered a contract between all group members and each other. This contract should specify the expectations for group members with regard to all assignments, exams, and other group work. It should also detail the consequences for members failing to meet the terms of the contract. **Squad goals are worth 5% of your grade.**

Examinations: Students are responsible for all information contained in the readings, lectures and other presentations. Examinations generally will consist of essay question(s) in which it will be necessary for students to spot the issue in the facts provided and, using what we have discussed in class, analyze and answer the question. **Exams are completed in squads worth 65% of your grade.** Squads are expected to complete the exams by the deadline.

Squads will earn one exam grade. Individual student grades are based on their contribution to each exam based on personal assessment and that of their squad members.

Students are able to drop their lowest exam grade, but should use this option judiciously. Therefore, students may choose to not take the last exam. To use this option, squads must all agree and must inform the professor **at least one (1) week before** the scheduled exam. **Failure to do so means loss of this option.**

The **exam questions** are as follows:

- **Exam 1:** Is net neutrality protected by the US Constitution (the 1st Amendment)?
- **Exam 2:** Should the US recognize the right to be forgotten?
- **Exam 3:** Should algorithms be made public?

Your squad will be assigned a side in these debates and will use the class materials to argue/support your answer.

Class Participation will be determined based upon **actual participation in-class discussion** (answering questions) and other **in-class** activities that will occur weekly throughout the semester. Please come to class having read the assignments and to ask any questions that you may have about what you have read, or what you may have heard about on tv, the internet, etc., relevant to class discussion. **Class participation is worth 10% of your grade.** We will be using <http://polleverywhere.com> and **in-class quizzes** to track participation. To use this site you must login with the login information that will be provided at the beginning of the semester. **Failure to sign in accurately means loss of participation points.** **You must be in class to participate. No outside participation will be counted and will be considered a violation of the UF Honor Code.**

Extra Credit: possibilities for extra credit will be available in the form of practice quizzes on Canvas and participation in the SONA research study pools. Students may earn up **to two (2) points** of extra credit for participation in SONA. Points earned for participation in SONA are added to your **final grade** for the class. **Points earned for practice quizzes are added to your score for the next scheduled exam.**

Case Briefs & On Call

Each week students are required to read at least one case in preparation for class. In class students will, with their squad, complete a case brief. Each week a number of groups will be “on call,” meaning they will take primary responsibility for answering questions concerning the readings, presenting the case brief to the class, and the applying the brief to the in-class discussion. **All squads** must turn in brief applications each week, and be prepared to answer questions applying the brief to the relevant in-class discussion. The case for briefing will be indicated on the weekly assignment list. **Case brief applications**

are worth 20% of your grade. Individual student brief grades are based on their contribution based on personal assessment and that of their squad members.

Other Important Information

Classroom Behavior and Course Policies

Students are expected to arrive on time, turn cell phones off, silence other electronic devices, and stay for the duration of the class period. Laptops are permitted but should be used for note-taking and in-class assignment purposes. All grades are final after one week. No exceptions. If a student wishes to challenge a grade, they must contact me 48 hours after receiving their grade. In an email, the student should provide a detailed description of the substantive issue with their grade. **When you email me, please put "RTV 4700" followed by the subject of your email IN THE SUBJECT LINE. In addition, please include your full name and UFID number at the end of the email.**

Academic Honesty

Students are required to be honest in all of their university class work. Faculty members have a duty to promote ethical behavior and avoid practices and environments that foster cheating. I encourage you to bring incidents of dishonesty to my attention.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Cheating and other academic dishonesty issues will result in an automatic E for the course.

Absences in General

Students should make every effort to attend each class as scheduled. **Because this class is based on group work, students should not miss more than 3 class periods. Every absence after that will result in the student's grade being lowered by one half-step.** Students may not make up in-class activity that they missed for credit. The student should contact a classmate for any substantive information they may have missed while away from class. No alternative exams will be provided for a student who misses an exam without properly notifying the instructor.

Religious Holidays

The university calendar does not include observance of any religious holidays. The Florida Board of Governors and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays. Students shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith with prior notification to the instructor. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

Student Illness

Students who are absent from classes or examinations because of illness should contact the instructor. The [Student Health Care Center \(SHCC\)](#) can provide a medical excuse note only if their providers are involved in the medical care of a student who must be absent from class for three or more days for medical reasons. A student who has a medical reason that results in fewer than three days of absence from class should talk with his/her professor rather than ask for an excuse note from the SHCC.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last 2 or 3 weeks of the semester. Summary results of these assessments are available at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Looking forward to a fun and interesting semester!

Thumbnail 1: Pascal Charest (Flickr)

Thumbnail 2: Hans Põlodoja (Flickr)