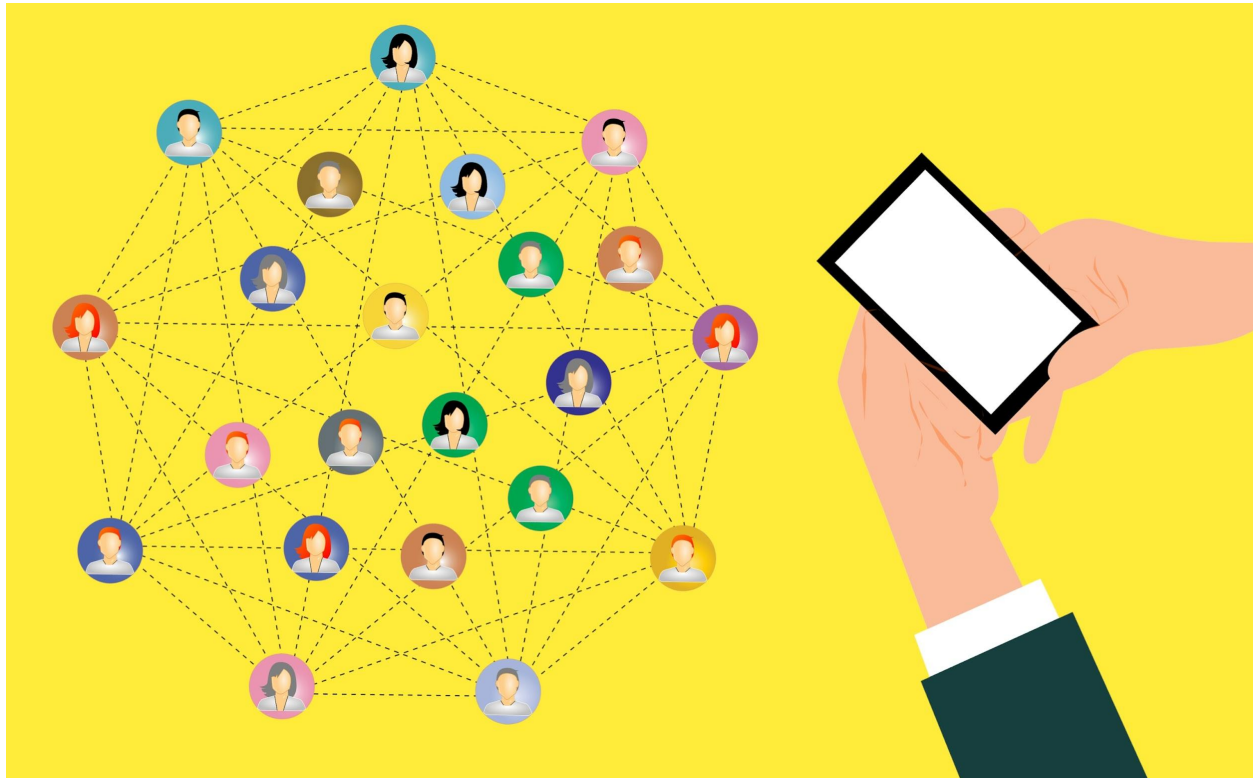


RTV4700: Media Law & Policy ± CGS3065: Legal and Social Issues in Computing



INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jasmine McNealy
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352-846-0226
3062 WEIMER HALL
MEETING TIMES & LOCATION: Virtual,
asynchronous
OFFICE HOURS: VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS,
Thursday 9:30-11:30am & BY APPT.

REQUIRED TEXT:
James Grimmelman, *Internet Law: Cases & Problems* (13th Ed. or later)

TEACHING ASSISTANT:
TBD

Course Description

Welcome! This course provides an introduction to the laws and policies affecting the past, present, and future of various forms of communication technology. Innovations in media tech pose pressing questions for courts and legislators. This course will introduce you to these legal and ethical issues and asks you to think critically about the answers and solutions for conflicts that arise. Our emphasis is on US law and the U.S. Constitution, including freedom of speech and expression as well as privacy, intellectual property, and defamation, and will touch on global

legal phenomena. This course is completely online and asynchronous and has both individual and team-based learning components.

Course Objectives

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

- That students demonstrate an understanding of relevant laws and regulations affecting media technology.
- That students demonstrate an understanding of U.S. constitutional principles relevant to media and technology.
- That students demonstrate an understanding of the power of regulatory agencies and judicial bodies.
- That students recognize current issues in media technology 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 a variety of contexts.

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.
- Critically consider constitutional amendments, acts, laws, and court decisions governing media technology in the United States and abroad.
- Collaborate with other learners in teams to solve problems.

Course Methodology

Each week, students will be expected to:

1. Review the week's learning objectives.
2. Complete all assigned readings.
3. Review assigned video and other materials.
4. Participate in team-based exercises.
5. Complete and submit all assignments by the due dates.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

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, syntheses, 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.**

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

Grading Parameters

Syntheses (3)	35%
Exams (3):	45%
Quizzes:	15%
Squad Goals:	5%

Quizzes: Each week you are expected to complete, by yourself, a module quiz based on the lecture, videos, readings and other class materials for that week. Quizzes will be made of 10 multiple choice and true-false questions. You will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz. **Quizzes are worth 15%** of your grade always due Monday at 11:59pm. Barring emergencies, students may not make up missed quizzes.

Exams: There are **three (3)** non-cumulative exams in this course. Exams will always be available through the Canvas class site. Students will be able to complete the exam at any time during the exam day, however, exams are timed and must be completed within 50 minutes. Exams will consist of true/false and multiple choice questions.

Students may drop their lowest grade, this includes not taking the third exam. Students choosing to not take the third exam must inform the instructor **at least one (1) week before the exam.** Exams are **worth 45% of your grade.**

Syntheses: Students are responsible for all information contained in the readings, lectures and other presentations. Syntheses 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. Syntheses are completed in squads and are worth **35% of your grade.** Squads are expected to complete the syntheses by the deadline. Syntheses will be due at Noon the following Wednesday. **Squads will earn one synthesis grade. Individual student grades are based on their contribution to each synthesis based on personal assessment and that of their squad members. Students who are separated from their squads will have to complete syntheses individually.**

Extra Credit: possibilities for extra credit will be available in the form of select activities 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 activities are added to your score for the next scheduled pitch discussion.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Classroom Behavior and Course Policies

This course is conducted completely online. You should check the syllabus, at a minimum, at the beginning of each week as a reminder of upcoming assignments. The best way to reach me is using the Canvas email system. When you **email me using Canvas**, please put “RTV 4700” or “CGS 3065” 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.

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.

Academic Honesty and UF Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor 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.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

From *Regulations of the University of Florida, 6C1-4.047 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code: Sanctions*

A note on Chat GPT, LLMs, and other outside materials: Don't use them. You don't need them. You will spend more time getting them to work and then reviewing the outputs than just completing the course assignments. If you do decide to use them you will be held responsible for any errors or material that we have not covered in this course.

Classroom Demeanor & Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please read the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses.

Security

Remember that your Canvas password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

- Don't share your password with anyone
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it
- Always logout when you are finished using the system

Absences in General

Students should make every effort to complete the assignments for the course as schedule each class as scheduled. You may complete assignments ahead of schedule, but you will not receive credit for work completed after the deadline without prior clearance. Because this class is based on group work, students should not miss more follow both the guidelines provided here and adhere to their squad goals as agreed upon at the beginning of the semester.

No alternative assignments 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 affected by illness should contact UF [Student Health Care Center \(SHCC\)](#) or a home physician who can provide medical care. In any case, please inform me if your health is making it difficult for you to complete class assignments.

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.

Tech Support and Netiquette

This course is delivered completely on Canvas using Zoom for meetings. For tech support please contact UFIT at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>. I suggest using either Chrome or Firefox as browsers for accessing the e-learning system. You can also get more information at <http://elearning.ufl.edu>.

Online discussions can be fruitful and interesting. It is my expectation for this course that you give your classmates the utmost respect when interacting with them in this course. Remember that it is much different to communicate thoughts and opinions over discussion boards than in person. Be respectful to your classmates' ideas, ask insightful questions for clarity, read with consideration, and give criticism with professionalism.

Both students and faculty each have a responsibility to maintain an appropriate learning environment online. I expect that we will all show professional courtesy and good netiquette in our discussions. Per university policy, we will all give due respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression, age, disability, political affiliation, and nationalities. If there is a pronoun your classmates and I should use when talking with you, please let us know.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>."

Looking forward to a fun and interesting semester!