

**IMT 550**  
**Policy and Ethics: Information in Social Context**  
**Winter 2015**

**Instructors**

Instructor: Megan Finn ([megfinn@uw.edu](mailto:megfinn@uw.edu))

Teaching Assistant: Bryce Newell ([bcnewell@uw.edu](mailto:bcnewell@uw.edu))

**Course Description**

This course examines policy and ethical issues affecting information use, with an emphasis on the social and cultural aspects. We will discuss policy issues including privacy and intellectual property, ethical issues including freedom of expression and social justice, and explore ways in which they are relevant to information management professionals.

**Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to understand and articulate:

- policy and legal implications of information use
- philosophical, social and cultural dimensions of ethical choices, including social justice
- legal and practical implications of information policy and regulation, including intellectual property and privacy.

**Assignments and Grading**

Grading will be based on the following criteria (for detailed description of each assignment go to the [Assignments](#) section of the website)

1. Class participation (attendance and engagement in discussions): 20 points
2. Group-led discussion and presentation: 20 points
3. First Short Paper: 10 points
4. Second paper: 15 points
5. Final Paper: 25 points
6. Peer review: 5 points
7. Debate: 5 points

**Readings, Lectures, and Assignments**

**Week 1 – Introduction to the class**

**January 6**

**Introduction to Class -**

*Required Reading:*

- Braman, Sandra. 2011. “[Defining Information Policy](#) .
- Journal of Information Policy* 1: 1–5.
- Baase, S. 2013. [Chapter 1: Unwrapping the Gift](#) . In *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

## January 8

### Information Cultures and Histories

#### Required Reading:

- Darnton, Robert. (2000). “[An Early Information Society: News and the Media in Eighteenth-Century Paris](#).” *American Historical Review* 105 (1): 1–35.
- Castells, Manuel. 2004. [Informationalism, Networks, and the Network Society: A Theoretical Blueprint](#). In Castells, M. (Ed). *The Network Society: A Cross Cultural Perspective*. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited: UK. (pp. 3-48)

## Week 2 - Ethics in the Information Age

## January 13

### Ethical Frameworks

#### Required Reading:

- Ess, C. 2009. [Chapter 6: Overview, Frameworks, Resources](#). In *Digital Media Ethics*. Cambridge, UK and Malden, MA: Polity Press.
- Regan, Tim. 2005. [Introduction to Moral Reasoning](#). in *Information Ethics: Privacy, Property and Power*. University of Washington Press.

#### Optional:

- Unsworth, Kristene, and Adam D. Moore. 2005. “Introduction” to *Information Ethics: Privacy, Property, and Power*. SSRN Scholarly Paper ID 2502589. Rochester, NY: Social Science Research Network. <http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=2502589>.
- Richardson, Henry S. 2014. “Moral Reasoning.” In *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward N. Zalta, Winter 2014. <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2014/entries/reasoning-moral/>.
- Quinn, M. (2011). Chapter 2: Introduction to Ethics. In *Ethics for the Information Age*. 4th ed. Pearson.
- Watch: Johnson, Deborah. 2014. Corporate Excellence, Ethics, and the Role of IT. *WGBH Forum*. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef\\_Ba0q4gLY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef_Ba0q4gLY)

## January 15

### Professional Ethics

#### Required Reading:

- Baase, S. 2013. [Chapter 9: Professional Ethics and Responsibilities](#). In *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.
- Cech, Erin A. 2014. [Culture of Disengagement in Engineering Education?](#) *Science, Technology & Human Values* 39 (1): 42–72.
- Watch: Horowitz, Damon. 2011. We need a “moral operating system.” *TED Talks*. [http://www.ted.com/talks/damon\\_horowitz](http://www.ted.com/talks/damon_horowitz)
- Look at the following Examples of Codes of Ethics:
  - [ACM Code of Ethics](#)
  - [Software Engineering Code of Ethics](#)
  - [IEEE Code of Ethics](#)
  - [ALA Code of Ethics](#)

- [Data Science code of conduct](#)

## Week 3 - Institutional and Cultural Practices of Speech and Privacy

January 20

### Freedom of Speech

Required Reading:

- Lessig, Lawrence. 2006. [Free Speech](#). Code: Version 2.0, New York: Basic Books. (pp. 233-276.)

Optional:

- [Brief overview of Freedom of Speech in the United States](#)
- Balkin, Jack. 2004, [Digital Speech and Democratic Culture: A Theory of Freedom of Expression for the Information Society](#), NYU Law Review, 79(1).
- Morozov, Evgeny. 2013. [So Open It Hurts](#).  [To save everything, click here: the folly of technological solutionism](#). New York Publishers. Ch. 3 (pp. 63-99)

January 22

### Cultural Institutional Contexts of Privacy and Surveillance

Required Reading:

- Ess, Charles. 2005. [“Lost in Translation”?: Intercultural Dialogues on Privacy and Information Ethics](#) .” *Ethics and Information Technology* 7 (1): 1–6.
- Kumaraguru, Ponnurangam, and Lorrie Cranor. 2006. [“Privacy in India: Attitudes and Awareness](#) .” In *Privacy Enhancing Technologies*, 243–58. Springer.
- Yao-Huai, Lü. 2005. [“Privacy and Data Privacy Issues in Contemporary China](#) .” *Ethics and Information Technology* 7 (1): 7–15.

## Week 4 - Privacy Rights in the United States

January 27

### Privacy and Surveillance Issues (Industry Perspective)

Required Reading:

- Etzioni, A. 2012. [“The Privacy Merchants: What Is to Be Done](#) ?” *Journal of Constitutional Law* 14 (4): 929–51.
- Skim: Madden, Mary. Pew Research Internet Project. 2014. *Public Perceptions of Privacy and Security in the Post-Snowden Era*. <http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/11/12/public-privacy-perceptions/>

Optional:

- Nissenbaum, Helen. 2010. [“Privacy in Context’: Part III \(The Framework of Contextual Integrity\)](#) .” In *Privacy in Context: Technology, Policy and the Integrity of Social Life*. Stanford, CA: Stanford Law Books.
- Solove, Daniel J. 2013. [“Privacy Self-Management and the Consent Paradox .”](#) Harvard Law Review. 126: 1880-1903

January 29

### Privacy and Surveillance in the US (Legal Perspective)

*Required Reading:*

- Moore, Adam. 2010. Chapter [1](#) and Chapter [2](#). In *Privacy Rights: Moral and Legal Foundations*.
- Read: the fourth amendment  
[http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/fourth\\_amendment](http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/fourth_amendment)
- Watch: Frontline, *The United States of Secrets*  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/united-states-of-secrets/>
- Listen: Intelligence Squared, *Mass Collection of US Phone Records Violates the Fourth Amendment*, <http://intelligencesquaredus.org/debates/past-debates/item/1190-mass-collection-of-u-s-phone-records-violates-the-fourth-amendment>

*Optional:*

- Crump, Catherine. 2013. You Are Being Tracked: How License Plate Readers Are Being Used to Record Americans' Movements. ACLU Report, July 17, 2013, available at <https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/071613-aclu-alprreport-opt-v05.pdf>
- Stanley, Jay. 2013. Police Body-Mounted Cameras: With Right Policies in Place, a Win For All. ACLU Report, October 9, 2013. Available at <https://www.aclu.org/technology-and-liberty/police-body-mounted-cameras-right-policies-place-win-all>

## Week 5 - Political Economy

### February 3

#### Political Economy of Information I

*Required Reading:*

- McChesney, R. 2013. [Chapter 4: Internet and Capitalism](#). In *Digital Disconnect: How Capitalism is Turning the Internet Against Democracy*. New Press: New York.
- Schiller, Dan. 2007. [Chapters 1 & 2](#). *How to Think About Information*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.

*Optional:*

- Benner, Chris. (2004). [Labor in the Network Society: Lessons from Silicon Valley](#). The Network Society: A Cross Cultural Perspective. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited: UK. (pp. 174-197)
- Vartanova, Elena. 2004. [The Russian Network Society](#). In Castells, M. (Ed). The Network Society: A Cross Cultural Perspective. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited: UK. (pp. 84-98)
- Hampton, Keith. (2004). [Networked Sociability Online, Off-line](#). In Castells, M. (Ed). The Network Society: A Cross Cultural Perspective. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited: UK. (pp. 217-232)

### February 5

#### Political Economy of Information II

*Required Reading:*

- Brynjolfsson, Erik, and Andrew McAfee. 2014. Introduction and [Policy Recommendations](#). *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

- Head, Simon. 2014. [Introduction](#). In *Mindless: Why Smarter Machines Are Making Dumber Humans*. New York: Basic Books.
- Listen: Intelligence Squared. 2008. *Google Violates its Don't be Evil Motto*. <http://intelligencesquaredus.org/debates/past-debates/item/600-google-violates-its-dont-be-evil-motto>

## Week 6 - Intellectual Property

February 10

### Intellectual Property History | The IP and the Internet

*Required Reading:*

- Healy, Kieran. 2002. “[Digital Technology and Cultural Goods](#).” *The Journal of Political Philosophy* 10 (4): 478–500.
- Hesse, Carla. 2002. “[The Rise of Intellectual Property, 700 BC-AD 2000: An Idea in the Balance](#).” *Daedalus*, 26–45.
- Watch: The Internet’s Own Boy <http://www.takepart.com/internets-own-boy#watch>
- Litwak, Mark. 2013. [Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Public Domain](#) (IFP.org)

*Optional:*

- Burkhart, Patrick. 2014. *Pirate Politics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Brown, Ian, and Christopher T. Marsden. 2013. [Introduction and Chapter 4: Copyright](#). In *Regulating Code: Good Governance and Better Regulation in the Information Age*. Cambridge, Mass: The MIT Press.

February 12

### Philosophical Foundations

*Required Reading:*

- Moore, Adam (2011). "[Intellectual Property](#) ", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2011 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.).
- Lessig, Lawrence. 2004. Free Culture. Chapter 10, “Property” (pp 116-174). <http://www.free-culture.cc/freecontent/>
- Broussard, S. 2007. [The Copyleft movement](#) – Communication Research Trends.

## Week 7 - Legal and Governance Frameworks

February 17

### The Right to Be Forgotten

*Required Reading:*

- Rosen, Jeff. [The Right to be Forgotten](#) . Stanford Law Review.
- Ambrose, Meg and Jef Ausloos. [The Right to be Forgotten Across the Pond](#) . Journal of Information Policy.

*Optional Reading:*

- Grimmelmann, James. [Speech Engines](#) . Minnesota Law Review.
- Costeja court case
  - [Official court documents](#)
  - [Advocate General press release](#)
  - [CJEU decision press release](#)

- [DG Justice overview of Costeja ruling](#)
- Goldman, E. 2014. [Primer on European Union's Right To Be Forgotten \(Excerpt from My Internet Law Casebook\)](#)

**February 19**

### Legal Frameworks

*Required Reading:*

- Kerr, Orin. 2007. How to Read a Legal Opinion (pp. 51-61). The Green Bag. Available at <http://www.volokh.com/files/howtoreadv2.pdf>.
- [United States v. Jones, 132 S. Ct. 945](#)   (selections: read Scalia's opinion & Sotomayor's concurrence; skim Alito's concurrence).
- [Florida v. Jardines, 569 U.S. \\_\\_\\_\\_ \(2013\)](#)   (selections: read Scalia's opinion & Kagan's concurrence).

*And read 1 of the following 2 cases (your choice):*

- Copyright: [MGM Studios, Inc. v. Grokster, Ltd., 545 U.S. 913 \(2005\)](#)   (main opinion).
- Trademark: [Brookfield Communications, Inc. v. West Coast Entertainment Corporation 174 F.3d 1036 \(9th Cir. 1999\)](#)  .

## Week 8 - Internet Governance and Information Control

**February 24**

### Internet Governance | Net Neutrality

*Required Reading:*

- Denardis, Laura. [The Global Politics of Interoperability](#)  . In *Access to Knowledge*. Cambridge, MA: Zone Books.
- Watch: "Net Neutrality: Obama's Plan for a free and open internet": <http://www.whitehouse.gov/net-neutrality> (watch the video and read the president's statement)
- Watch: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver: Net Neutrality
- Skim: Daniels, Jessie and Mary Gray. 2014. [Vision for Inclusion: an LGBT Broadband Future](#)  . *LGBT Technology Partnership*.

Optional:

- Bauer, Johannes M., and Jonathan A. Obar. 2014. "[Reconciling Political and Economic Goals in the Net Neutrality Debate](#)  ." *The Information Society* 30 (1): 1–19.
- Mathew, Ashwin, and Coye Cheshire. 2010. [The New Cartographers: Trust and Social Order within the Internet Infrastructure](#)  . SSRN Scholarly Paper ID 1988216. Rochester, NY: Social Science Research Network.

**February 26**

### Information Access and Control

*Required Reading:*

- Gillespie, Tarleton. 2010. "[The Politics of 'Platforms'](#)  ." *New Media & Society* 12 (3).

*Optional:*

Barocas, Solon, Sophie Hood, and Malte Ziewitz. 2013. [\*Governing Algorithms: A Provocation Piece\*](#). SSRN Scholarly Paper ID 2245322. Rochester, NY: Social Science Research Network. <http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=2245322>.

## Week 9 - Social Justice

### March 3

#### Role of Information and Communication in Social Change

*Required Reading:*

- Heeks, Richard. 2014. [From the MDGs to the Post-2015 Agenda: Analysing Changing Development Priorities](#). Development Informatics Working Paper No. 56. Centre for Development Informatics. Institute for Development Policy and Management, SEED University of Manchester.
- -
- Van Dijk, Jan. 2005. [Introduction and Chapter 2](#)  . In *The Deepening Divide: Inequality in the Information Society*. Sage Publications.

### March 5

#### Information and Collective Action

*Required Reading:*

- Sandoval-Almazan, Rodrigo; Gil-Garcia, J.Ramon, "[Cyberactivism through Social Media: Twitter, YouTube, and the Mexican Political Movement "I'm Number 132"](#)," *System Sciences (HICSS), 2013 46th Hawaii International Conference on*, vol., no., pp.1704,1713, 7-10 Jan. 2013.
- Lotan, Gilan et. al. 2011. [The Revolutions Were Tweeted: Information Flows During the 2011 Tunisian and Egyptian Revolutions](#). *International Journal of Communication* 5 (2011), Feature 1375–1405.

*Optional:*

- Sey, Araba. & Castells, M. 2004. From Media Politics to Networked Politics: The Internet and the Political Process  . In Castells, M. (Ed). *The Network Society: A Cross Cultural Perspective*. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited: UK. (pp. 363-384)
- Krikorian, Gaëlle. [Access to Knowledge as a Field of Activism](#)   (pp.56-87). In *Access to Knowledge*. Cambridge, MA: Zone Books.
- Juris, Jeffrey. 2004. Networked Social Movements: Global Movements for Global Justice. In Castells, M. (Ed). *The Network Society: A Cross Cultural Perspective*. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited: UK. (pp. 341-362)

## Week 10 - Summary of Course and Debate