THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Internet and Information Policy

Primary Course Number: PA388K	**Instructor:** Angela Newell, PhD
Primary Unique Number: 60690	**E-mail:** anewell@austin.utexas.edu
Semester: Fall 2016	**Phone:** 512-232-8066
Meeting Time: Mondays 2pm-5pm **Classroom:** SRH 3.122	**Office:** FAC 248 Suite **Office Hours:** By Appointment

I.   COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Internet and Information Policy is a survey course relevant for students interested in understanding the varied components of Information Policy as related to the Internet and engaging in in-depth study or practical experience with an aspect of Information Policy of particular interest to the individual student. Topics covered in the course include Information Economics; Bitcoin and Internet Currencies; Data, Information, and Open Data and Applications in Planning and Policy Making; Interoperability; The Dark Web; Information Security; Cybersecurity and Global Internet Governance; Hacktivism and Social Media; The Information Organization and Complex Adaptive Systems Theory; Planning and Policy Applications for the Future of Information and the Internet of Things; and The Singularity; among others.

II.   REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Reading materials are outlined in the course schedule section of this syllabus. Most of the readings can be found on Amazon.com or other popular book sites, including electronic copies via Google Books. Additional articles will be posted to the individual modules section of our Canvas site as the course progresses. This course is offered at the graduate level with the expectation that students will read the amount of materials expected of graduate students. Because this is a survey class, the materials are largely written for a non-academic audience and are not difficult reading materials. They are informative materials. Students are expected to have a working knowledge of the primary concepts and contents of the readings. It is expected that students will deeply read 100-150 pages of material per week and hard skim the rest of the materials.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students will engage in readings, blogging, practical experiences, and guest lectures to cover the subject matter and will be responsible for completing an individual or group project related to a topic of their choosing within the purview of Information Policy.

Project

Students will choose a project that demonstrates their learning of the materials presented in and related to the course. Examples of student projects include engaging in Bitcoin exchange and documenting the experience to discern any policy applications, exploring the Dark Web for any potential uses for public good, conducting field research to understand how user design plays a role in open data and local policy making, researching cybersecurity policies and enhancements or hindrances to economic growth, designing a drone program to assist in food provision, designing an app for disease mitigation, discovering the regulatory barriers to financial inclusion in mobile banking, understanding and exploring any role 3D printing might play in affecting health and health informatics, connecting businesses and local organizations to open data to spur innovation, and those yet to be unleashed by the student imagination. The project will account for **60% of your grade**.

Tumblr

Students are responsible for maintaining a Tumbler account and blog throughout the semester. Students will maintain a weekly journal of their experiences with and reflections on the readings. Please feel free to post associated articles, pictures, memes, links, videos, tweets, and connections to your field as part of your reflection experience.

Each post must be at least 500 words, but more is welcome and encouraged. Original posts are due by Friday at 8pm to give your classmates time to read, reblog, and comment on your posts.

You will be responsible for two peer comment/reblog posts each week. Each peer post must be at least 200 words.

The Tumbler is worth **40% of your grade**.
Your 8 best original tumbler entries (out of 10) and your 16 best peer reblog/comments will be used to determine your grade.

***Note: If you are unfamiliar with Tumblr as a blogging platform and have questions while setting up your blog, please make an appointment for office hours.

IV.   UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Professional Conduct in Class

The professor expects students to act like professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. We will not, nor should we, always agree with one another. In this environment we should be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometime we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. However, the professor does require that students engage one another with respect and professionalism.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/).

Documented Disability Statement

Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently: daily, but at minimum twice a week to stay current with university- related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php.

Safety

As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visithttp://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions. Do not re-enter a building unless the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office gives you instructions to do so.

V. COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 August 29th	What is Information Policy? The History of Computing	*Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace, Version 2.0* by Lawrence Lessig (Download: http://codev2.cc/) History of computing: http://www.computerhistory.org/timeline/	*Before Class 2: Review Syllabus* *Create Tumblr Page* *Email Tumblr URL to professor*
Week 2 September 5th	Complex Adaptive Systems Theory The Information Organization	*Emergence: The Connected Lives of Ants, Brain, Cities, and Software* by Steven Johnson Embracing Complexity, Harvard Business Review (https://hbr.org/2011/09/embracing-complexity)	*Tumblr Post 1 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 1 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*
Week 3 September 12th	The Information Economy Blockchain	*The Wealth of Networks: How Social Production Transforms Markets and Freedom* by Yochai Benkler and TED Talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/yochai_benkler_on_the_new_open_source_economics?language=en What is Blockchain?: http://blogs.wsj.com/cio/2016/02/02/cio-explainer-what-is-blockchain/ Blockchain Revolution by the Tapscotts: http://blockchain-revolution.com/	*Tumblr Post 2 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 2 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*
Week 4 September 19th	Net Neutrality The Internet as a Human Right Cloud Computing **Guest Speaker: Mr. William Green**	Articles posted to Canvas Module	*Tumblr Post 3 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 3 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*

Week 5 September 26th	Data, Information, & Analytics	*Big Data: A Revolution that Will Transform How We Live, Think, and Work* by Viktor Mayer-Schonberger and Kenneth Cukier *Governance in the Information Era: Theory and Practice of Policy Informatics* Edited by Erik W. Johnston	*Tumblr Post 4 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 4 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*
Week 6 October 3rd	Information & Data Security **Guest Speaker: Mr. Cam Beasley**	*Data and Goliath: The Hidden Battles to Collect Your Data and Control Your World* by Bruce Schneier Recommended (not required): *Black Code: Surveillance, Privacy, and The Dark Side of the Internet* by Robert J. Deibert	**Project Proposals Due**
Week 7 October 10th	Interoperability	*Interop: The Promise and Perils of Highly Interconnected Systems* by John Palfrey and Urs Gasser	*Tumblr Post 5 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 5 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*
Week 8 October 17th	Cybersecurity & Cyber War **Guest Speakers: Dr. Cesar Martinez**	*Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It* by Richard A. Clarke and Robert A Knake Recommended (not required): *@War: The Rise of the Military-Internet Complex* by Shane Harris	*Tumblr Post 6 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 6 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*
Week 9 October 24th	Global Internet Governance	*The Global War for Internet Governance* by Laura DeNardis *Future Crimes*	*Tumblr Post 7 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 7 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*

Week 10 October 31st Costumes optional!	The Dark Web Hacktivism, Social Media, & The Crowd	*The Dark Net: Inside the Digital Underworld* by Jamie Bartlett *Social Physics: How Good Ideas Spread—The Lessons From A New Science* by Alex Pentland	*Tumblr Post 8 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 8 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*
Week 11 November 7th	Information and Communications Technologies for the Developing World **Guest Speakers: Dr. Ariel Schwartz and Mr. Matthew Oppenheimer**	Articles: Policy Coherence in the Application of Information and Communication Technologies for Development: https://www.oecd.org/ict/4d/44029390.pdf Development and Big Data: http://www.unglobalpulse.org/sites/default/files/BigDataforDevelopment-UNGlobalPulseJune2012.pdf Internet Economy: http://www.oecd.org/internet/ieconomy/ Blockchain and communities: http://theconversation.com/blockchain-technology-could-be-a-game-changer-for-developing-communities-52896	*Tumblr Post 9 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 9 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*
Week 12 November 14th	Artificial Intelligence The Internet of Things	*The Internet of Things (The MIT Press Essential Knowledge Series)* by Samuel Greengard *The Silent Intelligence: The Internet of Things* by Daniel Kellmereit Recommended (not required): *The Future of the Internet and How to Stop It* by Jonathan	*Tumblr Post 10 (Friday by 8:00PM)* *Comments on peer posts 10 (Sunday by 8:00PM)*

		Zittrain	
		Recommended (not required): *The Singularity is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology* by Ray Kurzweil	
		Recommended (not required): *Our Molecular Future: How Nanotechnology, Robotics, Genetics and Artificial Intelligence Will Transform Our World* by Douglas Mulhall	
		Recommended (not required): *Love and Sex with Robots: The Evolution of Human-Robot Relationships* by David Levy	
Week 13 November 21st	**Project Preparation**		
Week 14 November 28th	**Project Presentations**		
Week 15 December 5th	**Project Presentations**		

Course Grading:

94. 0 and Above	A
90.0 to 93.999	A-
87.0 to 89.999	B+
84.0 to 86.999	B
80.0 to 83.999	B-
77.0 to 79.999	C+
74.0 to 76.999	C
70.0 to 73.999	C-
67.0 to 69.999	D+
64.0 to 66.999	D
60.0 to 63.999	D-
Below 60.0	F