INFO 6610 Information Policy
Fall 2019

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Course Website: Brightspace
Course time: Mondays, 5:35 p.m. to 8:25 p.m.
Course location: Rowe Bldg., Room #3001

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore a wide range of current issues impacting information professionals particularly as they relate to the cycle of policy development. How these issues influence the ways in which various levels of government, the private and not-for-profit sectors, and key individuals formulate, implement, and evaluate policies that affect information creation, control, access and use will be critically examined. This course will contextualize the rapid transformation of information and communications infrastructures, as well as, the concept of an information or knowledge-based society. Accordingly, this course will focus on significant Canadian issues and the global perspective. The course is structured as a graduate-level seminar and offers students with opportunities to reflect upon, and critically analyse, policy issues of relevance to information professionals in all settings.

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES
None

COURSE GOALS

1. To investigate issues surrounding information policy development
2. To focus, where appropriate, on Canadian issues within an international context
3. To examine the complementary, often conflicting, roles of the public, private and not-for-profit sectors in information creation, provision and access
4. To understand the political, economic, social, cultural and ethical components of information policy
5. To promote advocacy of relevant policy issues amongst library and information professionals.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and define information policy

2. Recognize and discuss the purposes for which information policies are developed

3. Identify stakeholders in the development of information policy

4. Identify examples of key international and Canadian information policies and understand their historical development and significance

5. Identify the structure and characteristics of information policy literature

TECHNOLOGY USED
This course will rely substantially upon digital resources, as well as, available and relevant print resources to undertake a detailed study of information policy topics and themes.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS
This broad and complex topic will be discussed through seminars led by the Instructor and Guest Speakers, with assigned readings, student seminar presentations, and the preparation of specific assignments. Students will examine policy documents and undertake their critical evaluation.

LEARNING MATERIALS
This course does not have a textbook assigned. It will rely upon an extensive consideration of the available academic and institutional literature to provide students with an understanding of the various topical areas associated with information policy.

METHOD OF EVALUATION
Assessment (all individual) will take the form of in-class seminars and presentations, brief reports and one extensive essay of a topic of individual interest.

- Brief Reports on Policy Issues (2 required @ 15%)   30%
- Group Presentation   25%
- Major Paper on a Policy issue   30%
- Participation   15%

The grade earned will be assigned according to the SIM Grading Policy which may be found at:
http://www.dal.ca/faculty/management/school-of-information-management/current-students-site/sim-grading-policy.html

Course Assignment Details

Brief Report on a Policy Issue (2 required)   **30%**
For the two brief reports students will pick one policy issues of interest from the course outline, focusing on topics that are not related to their major paper or their seminar. **One of the reports may take the form of an information policy for an organization of your choice.** Each brief report (3 pages in length, double spaced; excluding references, figures and tables) should give an overview of the issue, the history or context of the policy, the stakeholders, and the various political, economic, social, cultural and ethical components of the policy. The report should include a bibliography of works cited, and should include a minimum of 3 recent (2005 to date) items pertinent to the issue. Each report should be submitted electronically. Please be ready to summarize your findings as part of the class discussion the day we are discussing the topic.

Note: It is recommended that there be one report before the reading week, and one after

Group Presentation (Paired Assignment; sign up for a topic, due TBA)   **25%**
The Group presentation will provide an overview of the topic for the week, and will identify the major issues, trends and perspectives. Using the suggested topics for the week as a base, the group should research and help unravel the policy process, the players, identify all relevant policies, discuss the public debate, and consider the impacts of the policy.

Two suggested readings for the class should be chosen, along with a minimum of 2 discussion questions, and submitted to the class the week **PRIOR** to your seminar. **The seminar should be 15 minutes in length for pairs** with discussion questions to follow. **All group members must take part in the in-class presentation!** The seminar may include multimedia clips or a Guest Speaker. A resource page for the topic should also be prepared, and can be submitted electronically. **10% of the grade for this assignment will be based** on a peer-evaluation (an evaluation form to be recommended by Instructor).

Major Paper on Selected Policy Issue (Due December 3rd)   **30%**
The paper will involve a critical and in-depth look at a policy issue, emphasizing the issues, trends and perspectives. Evidence of research, breadth and depth of coverage will be expected. Understanding of the policy process, the players, the individual policies under consideration, the public debate surrounding the policy, and consideration of possible policy impacts should all be considered in your work. Paper should be between 10 and 12 pages in length (excluding references, figures and tables, double spaced). The bibliography should reflect a range of sources, including a majority of recent items. Paper topic can overlap with your group seminar, but should not be identical, and should be different that the topics for the brief reports. **Please confirm your topic with the Instructor by October 7th.**

Participation   **15%**
This is graduate-level seminar course. Therefore, participation is an essential component of the learning process. Participation marks will be based on general contributions to the class discussions on a weekly basis, and the summary of your bi-weekly brief blog reports given in class. Your general comments should reflect the readings, and prior knowledge and experience, and link to the general themes of the class.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

These guidelines suggest points to consider when preparing, writing and presenting your work. Criteria for assessment will be based on attention to these general guidelines, on specific attention to individual assignment guidelines, as well as on evidence of wide reading and reflection of the topics under consideration. If you have any questions at all as we move through the term, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

1. Please read the instructions for individual assignments. Attention to them is incorporated into the assessment and grade.
2. Written reports should be word-processed, double-spaced and the pages should be numbered, font - Times New Roman 12-point size, margins - 2cm (5 points deduction for any submission not matching the required format specification).
3. Please ensure you have read, and understand the Faculty of Management and Dalhousie policies on academic integrity (see below).
4. Depending on the particular assignment, reports should have a bibliography appended, of the items you use in the preparation of your report, using **APA** Style.
5. Please take care with spelling and grammar.
6. Assignments are due at **11:59pm** on the due date (unless specified otherwise by the instructor).
7. Assignments submitted 72 hours after the deadline will not be accepted. Late assignments submitted within 72 hours of the deadline, will be accepted with the automated deduction of 10 points per every 24-hour period that the assignment is late (out of 100 possible points). Exceptions will be allowed in case of documentable illness or family problems. Contact the instructor via email (in advance of due date if possible).
8. Assignments should be submitted electronically via the class website. **The acceptable file format for written reports is PDF.** (If you are using MS Word to write your report, you can download one of the free tools such as PDFCreator or PrimoPDF to convert your MS Word document to PDF format.)

INTEGRATION OF MLIS COMPETENCIES PROGRAM COMPETENCY	COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME	COURSE ASSESSMENT
1. Management of Information Technology	Identify examples of key international & Canadian information policies & understand their historical development & significance	Brief report on policy issues (two individual assignments)
2. Information Management Leadership	Recognize & discuss the purposes for which information policy are developed	Major paper on identified policy issue
3. Risk & Change Management	To promote advocacy of relevant policy issues among library & information professionals	Brief report on policy issues (two individual assignments)
4. User-centred Information Services	Understand & define information policy.	Component of all course assignments
5. Research & Evaluation	Identify stakeholders in the development of information policy; Identify the structure & characteristics of information policy literature	Component of all course assignments
6. Workplace Skills & Attributes:		
(a) Collaborate & Communicate	To investigate issues surrounding information policy development	Group presentation
(b) Organize, Plan & Manage	To examine complementary, often conflicting, roles for the public, private & not-for-profit components of information policy	Component of all course assignments
(c) Develop Personally & Professionally	To understand political, economic, social, cultural & ethical components of information policy	Component of all course assignments

CLASS POLICIES
Attendance; absence from class; allowed use of laptops, etc. Please include the section below pertaining to class attendance:

Class attendance is required in all MLIS courses and is included in the participation mark. Attendance records will be kept by the instructor. **Absence from class (one class)**
Students are required to inform the instructor ahead of time of any absence from class. This absence may affect participation marks or class activities.
Extended absence from class (two or more classes)
• Emergencies o Contact the MLIS Program Coordinator and provide a list of the courses you are taking and your instructors' names.

• Illness o Contact your instructor(s) as soon as possible **prior to class** to inform him or her of your illness.
o **All absences due to illness must be supported by a physician's note to be submitted to the MLIS Program Coordinator (JoAnn Watson) with a list of courses you are taking and your instructors' names.**

Late penalties for assignments
A penalty for late assignments will be assessed, unless prior permission has been given by the instructor to submit an assignment late, which normally will be for extended illness, medical, or family emergencies only (see above). Late submissions will be assessed a penalty of five percent per day, including weekends. Assignments will not normally be accepted seven days or more after the due date; in such cases the student will receive a grade of zero.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Topics addressed will include those surrounding issues of information creation, dissemination and use, such as copyright, privacy, intellectual freedom, regulation of information industries (publishing, the media, etc.). Specific themes to be discussed each week include the following [N.B.: Reading may be updated, as necessary]:

Week 1: September 9th

Introduction to the Policy Process, Policy Analysis, & Theory and Overview of the political, social, economic, cultural aspects of information policy studies

- What is the policy process in general?

- What is Information Policy?

- Trends in policy formation

- How do you identify the various interests and stakeholders?

- Whose voice is not heard?

- For this week

  1. Review the syllabus; if you have any questions, post your questions to the online forum called "Questions about Assignments"

  2. By Thursday, September 12th, go to the online forum "Participant Profiles & Statements of Interest" to add a brief biographical "sketch" as well as to offer your thoughts on how this course might be helpful to you in your current/future work.

Readings:

Required

- Orna, E. (2008) Information policies: yesterday, today, tomorrow, *Journal of Information Science* 34: 547-565.

- Duff, A. S. (2004). The Past, present and future of information policy, *Information Communication and Society, 7*(1), 69-87.

Optional

- Browne, M. (1997). The field of information policy: 1. Fundamental concepts. *Journal of Information Science, 23*(4), 261-275.

- Browne, M. (1997). The field of information policy: 2. Redefining the boundaries and methodologies. *Journal of Information Science, 23*(5), 339-351 I

Week 2: September 16th

The policy implications of an Information Society

- What's been achieved following the Summit on Information Society?

- Policy issues surrounding "Universal access, electronic public space and sustainability"

- What's heard from the voices of Information Professionals in the process?

- Role of private companies, international organizations, governments?

- Net Neutrality

Readings:

- *IFLA site on the World Summit on the Information Society*: https://www.ifla.org/wsis

  Specifically look at the following documents

  - http://www.ifla.org/III/wsis/WSIS-Action-Lines.pdf

  - http://www.ifla.org/III/wsis/ALIA2004WSIS.pdf

- *World Summit on the Information Society:* http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/index.html

  Particularly the following:

  - http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/publications/worldinformationsociety/2007/WISR07-chapter6.pdf
    - Since the 2nd round of the Summit on Information Society what has been achieved?

    - Policy issues surrounding "Universal access, electronic public space and sustainability"

    - Voices of Information Professionals in the process?

    - Role of private companies, international organizations, governments?

    - *Information Society and Net Neutrality*

Week 3: September 23rd

The Canadian Context – Part 1: National Information Infrastructure Policy, Government On-Line

- Digital divide within Canada

- The future of Community Access Sites

Readings:

- Rideout, V. & Reddick, A. (2005) Sustaining Community Access to Technology: Who Should Pay and Why. *The Journal of Community Informatics [Online], 1*(2). Available at: http://www.ci-journal.net/index.php/ciej/article/viewFile/202/162

- Middleton, C.A. & Sorensen, C. How connected are Canadians? Inequities in Canadian households' internet access, *Canadian Journal of Communication, 30*(4). Available at: https://cjc-online.ca/index.php/journal/article/view/1656

Week 4: September 30th

The Canadian Context – Part 2: e-Government & Telecommunications Policy

- Canada keeps scoring high on surveys of e-Government, what do you think?

- Looking at the policies and the realities

- Telecommunications Policy

- Canadian initiatives towards a "knowledge society"

- Broadcasting policies

Readings:

- In terms of regulation in Canada, I did want to draw our attention to the following site in general:

  - The Industry Canada website for "spectrum, information technologies and telecommunications: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/app/sitt/portal/jsp/splash_page.jsp

    - Specifically the following from this site:

      http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/h_sf01714e.html including the "Guidelines on the Licensing Process and Spectrum Release Plan"

Week 5: October 7th

The Canadian Context – Part 3: Copyright, Privacy, & Freedom of Information

- Canadian Copyright legislation

- Canadian privacy legislation and freedom of information

- Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act

- Support of Canadian information industry?

Readings and Background Material:

You may use the following resources to get a better picture of the ISP industry in Canada, and links between the ISP community and policy and law:

1. Michael Giest's site in terms of many interesting topics: http://www.michaelgeist.ca/index.php

2. CATAAlliance: https://cata.ca/

3. Canadian Federation of Library Associations – Copyright Information Centre regarding current and proposed copyright legislation in Canada: http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/copyright/

4. Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC): https://cippic.ca/

5. http://www.internetpolicy.net/practices/licensing_options.pdf gives a sense of the global perspective on the topic of licensing options for ISP.

Week 6: October 14th – *Thanksgiving holiday, no class*

Week 7: October 21st

Post 9/11: Secrecy, Security, Privacy & Information Policy

- Information Policy & "policing" information in the post-9/11 era

- US vs. Canada – e-Government issues

- Government information policies

- Information professionals and information policy?

- Authenticity, preservation, and access in digital collections

Readings and Resources:

- Jaeger, P. & Burnett, G. (2005) Information access and exchange among small worlds in a demographic society: The Role of policy in shaping information behaviour in the Post 9/11 United States, *The Library Quarterly 75*(4), 464-495.

Take a look at the ALA site in terms of Libraries and The Patriot Act:

- ALA | The USA Patriot Act in the Library, Available at http://bit.ly/akhML5

Week 8: October 28th

The Global Context – Part 1: Global Information Infrastructure Policy

- Beyond the Summit for Information Society, who is doing what around the world?

- Trans-border data flows

- Global trends in privacy legislation

- Cyber-security

Readings and Resources

- The Durable Internet: Preserving Network Neutrality without Regulation. *T. Lee. Cato Institute Policy Analysis No. 626*, Nov. 2008. Available at: https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa-626.pdf

- The Rise and Fall of Invasive ISP Surveillance. P. Ohm. August 2008. Available at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1261344

- Raab, C.D. & Bennett, C.J. The Governance of Global Issues: Protecting privacy in personal information, available online at: http://www.essex.ac.uk/ECPR/events/jointsessions/paperarchive/edinburgh/ws11/RaabBennett.pdf

Week 9: November 4th

The Global Context – Part 2: FOI, Copyright & Open Access

- Freedom of Information?

- Creative Commons and new copyright models

- Trade and Information policy (GATS and WTO)

- Open Access – Global policy trends in the publishing industry

Readings and Resources:

- Lawrence Lessig's Books, Blogs and Website: http://www.lessig.org/

- Creative Commons Website: https://creativecommons.org/

- Charles W. Bailey, Jr.'s Scholarly Publishing Bibliography - Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography: http://www.digital-scholarship.org/sepb/sepb.html

READING WEEK (November 11th to 15th, 2019; no classes held)

Week 10: November 18th

Information Policy and Libraries

- The effect of information policies at the library level

- Summary of the relationship between librarians and policy in Canada

- Library and Archives Canada

- Authenticity, preservation and access in digital collections

- What should Librarians be doing?

- Models from around the world

Readings:

- Caidi, N & Menou, M.J. (2005) Global Information Village Plaza, *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, 31*(4), 7-14. (Available through ProQuest)

- Paul T. Jaeger, John Carlo Bertot, Charles R. McClure, Lesley A. Langa, The Policy Implications of Internet Connectivity in Public Libraries, *Government Information Quarterly, Volume 23,* Issue 1, 2006, Pages 123-141.

Week 11: November 25th

Information Policy in the Workplace

- Data protection legislation

- Legal issues with electronic information

- Information as a commodity

- Preserving archiving information

- Information Management policies

- Employee monitoring – surveillance vs. privacy

Readings:

- Halpern, D., Reville P.J., & Grunewald D. (2008) Management and Legal Issues Regarding Electronic Surveillance of Employees in the Workplace, *Journal of Business Ethics 80*(2), 175-180. (available online at Dal)

- Viseu, Ana, Clement, Andrew, Aspinall, Jane and Kennedy, Tracy L. M.(2006) 'The interplay of public and private spaces in internet access', *Information, Communication & Society, 9*:5,633 —656 URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13691180600965633

Week 12: December 2nd

Ethics & Intellectual Freedom

- Are patents and copyrights morally justified?

- Moral and legal issues of intellectual property

- Freedom of expression in a digital world

Readings:

- Lewin, P. (2007) Creativity or Coercion: Alternative Perspectives on Rights to Intellectual Property, *Journal of Business Ethics, 71*(4), 441-455

- Palmer, T. G. (1990) Are patents and copyrights morally justified? The philosophy of property rights and ideal objects. *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy. 13*(3),

Traditional Knowledge

- Traditional Knowledge and intellectual property issues

- Libraries, archives and traditional knowledge

- Relationships between public goods, private rights an the transfer of technology

- Discussion of Major Papers and Summary

Readings:

- Cottier, T. & Panizzon, M. (2004). Legal perspectives on traditional knowledge: The Case for intellectual property protection, *Journal of International Economic Law, 7*(2), 371-400.

- Nakata, M. & Langton, M. (2007) Libraries and indigenous knowledge: A National forum for libraries, archives and information services, available electronically at: http://hdl.handle.net/2100/57

RECOMMENDED INTERNET RESOURCES

Below are some the key sources of information about the policy issues in Canada and internationally. It must be remembered that this list is quite selective and you will want to supplement it with other titles that you will discover in your work this term. The handout begins with a listing of sites that cover the Canadian landscape, government departments, CFLA, research centre etc. The next section covers similar landscape for the US, and includes some of the academic centres of interest. Other government agency and intergovernmental sites of interest follow. Key private sector and "think tank" organization are included. A couple of key bibliographies available through the Web are also included. The information here has been compiled from various Policy course outlines.

CANADIAN

- Chief Information Officer Branch – Information Policies: https://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/topic-sujet-eng.aspx?ta=27

- The information policy framework in Canada includes:

  - Management of Government Information (MGI) Policy

  - Management of Information Technology (MIT) Policy

  - Privacy Impact Assessment Policy (PIA)

  - Policy on the Use of Electronic Networks

Additional direction is provided by related information policies such as the Access to Information; Communications; Federal Identity; Government Security; and Privacy. Obligations in the management of information and technology are referenced in various pieces of legislation including The Access to Information, National Archives, National Library, Official Languages and Privacy Acts.

- CANARIE, Canada's Advanced Network: https://www.canarie.ca/?referral=home

  CANARIE is not-for-profit corporation supported partly by the Federal Government whose mission is "to accelerate Canada's advanced Internet development and use by facilitating the widespread adoption of faster, more efficient networks and enabling the next generation of advanced products, applications and services to run on them".

- CFLA Copyright Information Centre: http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/copyright/

  "This section will provide the latest information on revisions to Canada's Copyright Act and regulations; position statements by associations and governments on copyright reform; interpretations of Canadian copyright law; issues related to digital information and media copyright; international copyright law and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI);

collective and performing rights societies; and some readings and writings on Canadian, U.S. and international copyright."

- BCLA Information Policy Committee: https://bclaconnect.ca/ipc/

    This website provides access for the library community to key information policy documents and resources.

AMERICAN

- U.S. National Coordination Office (NCO) for Computing, Information, and Communications: https://www.nitrd.gov/

- ALA/Intellectual Freedom Issues: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom

    ALA's main point of access for Intellectual Freedom issues including definitions, statements, policies, toolkits etc.

- The USC Annenberg School Center for the Digital Future: https://www.digitalcenter.org/

    The School provides extensive research and discussion regarding the effect of the internet and digital information on society, focused especially around trends in entertainment.

- The Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School: http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/home/mission

    The Berkman Center is a research program founded to explore cyberspace, share in its study, and help pioneer its development. It represents a network of faculty, students, fellows, entrepreneurs, lawyers, and virtual architects working to identify and engage with the challenges and opportunities of cyberspace.

- Lawrence Lessig Site: http://www.lessig.org/about/

    Lawrence Lessig is a Professor of Law at Stanford Law School and founder of the school's Center for Internet and Society. He has written extensively on issues such as copyright , and chairs the creative commons project. His site contains his blog, news, his books and interesting commentary on the legal issues of cyberspace,

Other Government & Intergovernmental Web Sites

- European Commission. Information Society Project: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/index_en.htm

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Internet topic: http://www.oecd.org/internet/

- UNESCO Observatory on the Information Society: http://www.unesco.org/webworld/observatory

- World Summit on the Information Society: http://www.itu.int/wsis/

Private Sector Interest Group/Think Tank Web Sites

- Benton Foundation: http://www.benton.org/

  The state goal of the Benton Foundation is to work to achieve "…the social benefits made possible by the public interest use of communications in the emerging communications environment and to demonstrate the value of communications for solving social problems." The site contains numerous, valuable publications on public policy dealing with the new telecommunications environment.

- Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT): http://www.cdt.org/

  A non-profit public interest organization based in Washington, DC. CDT works for ". . . public policies that advance civil liberties and democratic values in new computer and communications technologies."

- Electronic Frontier Foundation: http://www.eff.org/

  "Based in San Francisco, EFF is a donor-supported membership organization working to protect our fundamental rights regardless of technology; to educate the press, policymakers and the general public about civil liberties issues related to technology; and to act as a defender of those liberties. Among our various activities, EFF opposes misguided legislation, initiates and defends court cases preserving individuals' rights, launches global public campaigns, introduces leading edge proposals and papers, hosts frequent educational events, engages the press regularly, and publishes a comprehensive archive of digital civil liberties information at one of the most linked-to websites in the world."

- Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC): http://www.epic.org/

  EPIC is a public interest research center in Washington, D.C. It was established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging civil liberties issues and to protect privacy, the First Amendment, and constitutional values.

- OMB Watch. Information Policy: News and Analysis on Public Access to Government Information.: http://www.ombwatch.org/

  OMB Watch is a private, Washington, DC-based watchdog group that provides independent oversight of policy and legislative issues related to access to government information. One of its other major missions is to promote the concept that all citizens should have equal access to useful information technology.