



We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking Musqueam people.

iSchool Mission: Through innovative research, education and design, our mission is to enhance humanity's capacity to engage information in effective, creative and diverse ways.

INFO 456 Information Policy & Society – Course Syllabus (3)

Program:	BA Minor in Informatics Bachelor of Media Studies
Year:	2022-2023 W1
Course Schedule:	Tuesdays, 2-4:50
Location:	BUCH D-322
Instructor:	Dr. Lisa P. Nathan
Office location:	IKBLC 481
Office phone:	604-822-0051
Office hours:	“Drop in” Mondays 1-2pm or by appointment
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Learning Management Site:	http://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/canvas/

Calendar Description: Develops capabilities required to assess the need for information policies in professional contexts, evaluate relevant socio-technical dimensions and envision likely implications for specific communities and practice settings.

Course Overview: This course provides students with the basic knowledge and skills needed to identify, evaluate, adapt and (re)design policy relating to information and communication technology (ICT) and media practices in contemporary societies. Students will develop skills that will enable them to: 1) identify the need for information policy in various media contexts; 2) articulate the different forms information policy can take; 3) determine relevant socio-technical dimensions that influence and are influenced by information policy implementations; and 4) investigate possible implications of information policy for different stakeholders and practice settings.

Learning Outcomes (and Informatics Program Competencies):

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- [LO1] Explain the relationships between ethics and information policy [PC1]
- [LO2] Analyze the positions of various stakeholders on policy issues [PC1], [PC3]
- [LO3] Articulate examples of how information policy is enacted through different means (e.g., laws, regulations, tool functionality) [PC1], [PC3],
- [LO4] Write evaluations of policy issues (policy briefings) with sound justifications and clear arguments [PC1], [PC2] [PC3], [PC4], [PC5], [PC6]
- [LO5] Illustrate ethical, legal, and socio-political tensions being addressed through information policy by drawing upon contemporary examples [PC1], [PC2] [PC3], [PC4], [PC5], [PC6]



- [LO6] Identify key national and international policy issues affecting information/media-based organizations and the professionals working in those environments [PC1], [PC2] [PC3], [PC4], [PC5], [PC6]
- [LO7] Develop and present a policy analysis of a new/proposed ICT and associated technological practices (analysis of direct & indirect stakeholders and value tensions) [PC1], [PC2] [PC3], [PC4], [PC5], [PC6]

Course Topics:

- Values (Ethics) & ICTs
- Relationships Between Ethics, ICTs & Policy (i.e., Why is information policy needed?)
- Information Policy & Stakeholder Analysis
- Intellectual Property & Copyright
- Attempts to Shift Intellectual Property Regimes
- Privacy: Socio-Technical Dimensions & Controversies
- Freedom of Speech & Forms of Censorship
- Big Data, AI & Social Networking
- Professional ethic codes related to the use of information technologies by media professionals
- Contemporary Topics in Information Policy: Anonymity, Cyberwar, Genetic Discrimination, Digital Currencies, Biometrics, etc.

Prerequisites: INFO 250

Format of the course: The course will consist of reading, listening, and/or viewing assigned course material; in class activities, online discussion postings, in person (and potentially recorded) lectures, assignments, and presentations.

Required and Recommended Reading:

Material from books, journals, videos and websites will constitute required readings. These will be available via the course learning management system (i.e., Canvas) typically through collections provided by UBC Library. Assigned material may shift during the course as the topic areas covered in this class are often covered by mainstream media channels.

The materials for this course were chosen based on their coverage of and perspective on a few information policy topics. The positions presented are disputable and I count on you to help us find and articulate problematic (and generative) areas in argument, positioning, methodology, findings presented and/or conclusions drawn. Other factors that guide the selection of material are media type, length, novelty, longevity and influence of the author(s) on the topic area.

Your unique perspective (informed and constrained by identity, gender, spirituality, socio-cultural background, etc.) is valued in this course, as are the perspectives of your colleagues. There is not a single way to interpret these works.

You are expected to read all assigned material thoroughly and critically.

- Take notes (do not just highlight or underline).
- Put ideas into your own words
- Ask questions of the author(s)
- Bring these questions to class



Course Assignments and Assessment [Full Assignment Descriptions in Canvas]

Assignment Name	Due Date	Weight	Learning Outcomes	Program Competencies
Weekly Writing/Discussion Activities	<p>Part 1: Short, weekly writing and/or discussion activities will be a part of class (in person and/or online).</p> <p>Part 2: Due Friday, Dec. 9 @ 9 pm A final, short, reflective essay (1 page) based on a prompt that will be shared in class.</p>	20%	LO1; LO2; LO3; LO5; LO6;	[PC1], [PC2] [PC3], [PC4], [PC5], [PC6]
Cautionary Tale Presentation	Student groups will present these throughout the term during class	35%	LO1; LO2; LO5	[PC1], [PC2] [PC3], [PC4], [PC5], [PC6]
5. Briefing Project				
a. Proposal	a. Oct. 11 (2pm-class)	a. (-5 pts)	LO1; LO2; LO3; LO4; LO6; LO7	[PC1], [PC2] [PC3], [PC4], [PC5], [PC6]
b. Draft	b. Nov. 15 (2pm-class)	b. (-5 pts)		
c. Final version	c. Dec. 9 (by 11pm)	c. 40%		
d. Presentation	d. Dec. 6 (2pm-class)	d. 5%		

Course Schedule [week-by-week]:

Week	Topic	Date
1	<p>NO CLASS MEETING – IMAGINE DAY</p> <p>Visit Canvas to prepare for our first meeting September 14</p>	Sept. 6
2	Introductions to each other and information policy. Including the ethical roots of information policy and why information policy matters to societies	Sept. 13
3	Stories of values, ethics & stakeholders	Sept. 20
4	Approaches to information policy; Policy analysis; Intro to intellectual property & copyright	Sept. 27



5	Intellectual property (copyright) – Negotiating the regime	Oct. 4
6	Attempts to Shift Intellectual Property Regimes	Oct. 11
7	Privacy & Technology: A new concern?	Oct. 18
8	Privacy & Forgetting	Oct. 25
9	Policy Analysis	Nov. 1
10	Censorship	Nov. 8
11	Big Data & AI	Nov. 15
12	Infrastructure & cybersecurity: Surveillance and privacy	Nov. 22
13	Briefing workshop	Nov. 29
14	Professional & personal ethics; Final Briefing Pitches; Course Wrap Up	Dec. 6

Attendance:

- **Class attendance is required**
- **However, if you are sick, it is important that you stay home.** Complete a self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms here: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
- Participation in class-based exercises is an important aspect of student learning and there will be many ways to participate (in-person and online).
- If you know you are going to be absent or late, I *deeply appreciate* if you alert me beforehand if at all possible.
- Extended or frequent absence will require a note from the Centre for Accessibility.

Evaluation: all assignments will be marked according to [UBC grading policy](#).

- Participation in class through in person and online discussion contributions, presentations and a final policy briefing submission will be graded to evaluate students' grasp of the main concepts and theoretical approaches introduced in the course.
- Course time should not be used to upload your assignments.
- Late work is assessed at 5% of final assignment mark per day, up to 7 days, after which work will not be accepted.
- Grace periods (i.e., no late deduction) may be offered under special circumstances when you contact the instructor **24 hours in advance of the due date**.

Required Materials: There are no additional materials required for this course beyond regular access to a computer and the internet. Please contact me if you have computer or internet challenges.

Academic Concession:

If you miss marked coursework (assignment, exam, presentation, participation in class) and are an Arts student, review the Faculty of Arts' [academic concession page](#) and then complete Arts Academic



Advising's [online academic concession form](#), so that an advisor can evaluate your concession case. If you are a student in a different Faculty, please consult [your Faculty's webpage on academic concession](#), and then contact me where appropriate.

Policies and Resources to Support Student Success: UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>)

Academic Integrity: The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply when the matter is referred to the Office of the Dean. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the [UBC Calendar: Student Conduct and Discipline](#). Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, and self-plagiarism <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959> (§7)

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Academic accommodations help students with a disability or ongoing medical condition overcome challenges that may affect their academic success. Students requiring academic accommodations must register with the [Centre for Accessibility](#) (previously known as Access & Diversity). The Centre will determine that student's eligibility for accommodations in accordance with [Policy LR7: Accommodation for Students with Disabilities \(Joint Senate and Board Policy\)](#). Academic accommodations are not determined by your instructors, and instructors should not ask you about the nature of your disability or ongoing medical condition, or request copies of your disability documentation. However, your instructor may consult with the Centre for Accessibility should the accommodations affect the essential learning outcomes of a course.