

McMaster University
Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia
CMST 2LW3 Communication Policy & Law / Fall 2018

Instructor: Hervé Saint-Louis, PhD
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Lecture Schedule: Tuesday 9:30-10:20AM;
Friday, 9:30-11:20AM

Office location: TBA

Office hours: Tuesday 10:30-11:30AM

Class location: Michael DeGroot Centre for
Learning and Discovery (MDCL) 1110

Course Description

An examination of the role of government policy, regulation, and law on the structure and functioning of the mass media. Topics include cultural policy, communication technology policy, free speech and privacy rights.

Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the role and policy objectives of key national and international communication policy institutions
- Outline and discuss a range of communication policy issues
- Discuss current events related to a range of communication policy issues
- Apply a range of theories about the role of government bureaucracy to discuss communication policy moves
- Outline a range of theories about the policymaking process and discuss them as they apply to specific government policy decisions

Required Reading

The following text is required and is available at the campus bookstore. Additional readings are available on *Avenue to Learn*. There is no coursepack.

Packard, Ashley. *Digital Media Law*. 2nd ed. West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons, 2013.

Assignments, Weight, and Due Dates

Attendance & Participation	10%	Weekly
1st Midterm	20%	October 5
2 nd Midterm	20%	November 6
Essay	25%	due November 30 by 11:59PM
Final exam	25%	during exam period

Attendance and Participation

Attendance form part of students' participation marks. Simply attending lectures is not enough to earn participation marks. Students must participate in class discussions.

Midterms

The two midterms will be written in class on October 5 and on November 6. They will cover lectures, required readings, and class discussions.

Final Exam

The final exam will be based on all material covered in the lectures, required readings, and class discussions. It will take place during the exam period.

Essay

An essay on a topic related to the communication law and policy. Specific topics will be discussed and assigned in class. Essays will be marked for spelling and grammar; organization (good paragraph and essay form); and depth of argument.

Submission Process

All work must be submitted via the *Avenue to Learn* (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>) drop box, as per the instructions given in class. Assignments due after the last day of class must be submitted via the *Avenue to Learn* drop box unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor. Assignments handed in to a different location will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made. Do not drop off assignments in the CMST office. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Always maintain electronic or other back-up copies of whatever you submit.

Policy on Missed work, Extensions, and Late Penalties

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day (including weekends and holidays) unless alternate arrangements have been made in advance. Work that is not handed in one week after the due date will not be accepted.

A student who believes that his or her written term work has been unfairly marked may ask the person who marked the work for re-evaluation. Students must wait 48 hours after receiving their assignments and/or marks before beginning the appeal process. Students have up to a week to request re-evaluations. The student must submit (1) the original piece of work and (2) a written explanation detailing why they believe the work was unfairly/incorrectly marked. If an academic misconduct case is in progress for the piece of term work in question, a student may not appeal until the matter is resolved.

You have three days or 72 Hours (including weekends) from the date of the missed test to submit a special consideration requests for a makeup test. Reasons for special considerations could include the following:

- Accident
- Illness
- Emergency procedure
- Bereavement
- University-sponsored athletics/competitions
- Compulsory legal duties e.g. jury duty

Supporting documentation

A. Verification of Student Illness (for medical reasons)

- Documentation written completed and signed by medical practitioner must be submitted.
- The form must confirm that you were examined/diagnosed within 48 hours of your test or assignment due date.
- The medical professional must include a statement in the comments to confirm, “the student was unable to write test/hand in assignment on [mm/dd/yy] for medical reasons”.

B. Verification of Extenuating Circumstances (for non-medical reasons)

- A verifier is someone in a position of trust – this typically would not include a family member or friend, unless they have a professional designation (e.g. lawyer, spiritual/community/religious leader, etc.).

Reasons for special consideration do not include*:

- Pre-planned vacations or social commitments
- Transportation delays
- Technology malfunctions
- Time management, course loads
- Course conflicts, team work conflicts
- Misreading a deadline/timetable
- Late course enrolment
- Scheduled elective medical appointments
- Religious accommodations*
- Accessibility accommodations*

*Students requiring accessibility or religious accommodations are encouraged to request accommodations for term tests and assignments two-weeks before tests are scheduled.

Online Component

In this course we will be using *Avenue to Learn* (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process.

Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require special accommodation for learning or have any special needs, please let me know of them as soon as possible in order that arrangements can be made. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Centre for Student Development at <http://csd.mcmaster.ca/>.

Email

It is the policy of the CSMM Department that all email communication between students and instructors (including TAs) must originate from their official McMaster University email accounts. This policy protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information and confirms the identities of both the student and instructor.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Week	Date	
1	04-Sep	Introduction to Communication Policy Braman, S. (2011). Defining Information Policy. <i>Journal of Information Policy</i> , 1-5.
1	07-Sep	Introduction to the Legal System <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 1: "Introduction to the Legal System", pp. 1-20.</i>
2	11-Sep	Analyzing Communication Policy Browne, M. (1997). The field of information policy: 1. Fundamental concepts. <i>Journal of Information Science</i> , 23(4), 261–275.
2	14-Sep	Fundamentals of Legal Research Margolis, E., & Murray, K. E. (2012). Say goodbye to the books: information literacy as the new legal research paradigm. <i>Temple University Legal Studies Research Paper Series, Research Paper</i> , 34, 1-59.
3	18-Sep	Freedom of Expression <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 2: "Freedom of Expression", pp. 21-46.</i>
3	21-Sep	Freedom of the Press <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 2: "Freedom of Expression", pp. 21-46.</i>
4	25-Sep	Telecommunications Regulation Taylor, G. (2013). Oil in the ether: A critical history of spectrum auctions in Canada. <i>Canadian Journal of Communication</i> , 38(1).
4	28-Sep	Broadcasting Regulation <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 3: "Telecommunications Regulation", pp. 47-74.</i>
5	02-Oct	Lecture on Writing the Course Essay
5	05-Oct	1st Midterm Exam
6	Oct 8-11	No Class Mid-Term Recess
7	16-Oct	Censorship <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 11: "Sex and Violence", pp. 303-332.</i>
7	19-Oct	Regulation of New Media Canada. <i>Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission. Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2018-271</i> https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2018/2018-271.htm
8	23-Oct	Regulation of the Internet <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 4: "Internet Regulation", pp. 75-102.</i>
8	26-Oct	Defamation (Libel and Slander) <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 9: "Defamation", pp. 227-256.</i>
9	30-Oct	Privacy <i>Issues in Internet Law, Chapter 7, pp. 167-207</i>

9	02-Nov	Lawful Access <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 10: "Invasion of Privacy", pp. 257-302.</i>
10	06-Nov	2nd Midterm Exam
10	09-Nov	Access to Information <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 6: "Information Gathering", pp. 127-160</i>
11	13-Nov	Copyrights <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 7: "Intellectual Property: Copyright", pp. 161-198</i>
11	16-Nov	Trademarks & Patents <i>Digital Media Law, Chapter 8: "Intellectual Property: Patents, Trademarks, and Trade Secrets", pp. 199-226.</i>
12	20-Nov	Government Information Policy Orna, E. (2008). Information policies: yesterday, today, tomorrow. <i>Journal of Information Science</i> , 34(4), 547–565.
12	23-Nov	Cyber Crime and Cyber Security <i>Aycock, J. (2006). Computer Viruses and Malware. In J. Aycock, Definitions and Timeline (pp. 11-25). Berlin: Springer-Verlag.</i>
13	27-Nov	Information Controls Deibert, R., Palfrey, J., Rohozinski, R., & Zittrain, J. (2012). Toward the Fourth Phase of Cyberspace Controls. In R. Deibert, J. Palfrey, R. Rohozinski, & J. Zittrain (Eds.), <i>Access Contested: Security, Identity, and Resistance in Asian Cyberspace</i> (pp. 3-20). Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America: The MIT Press.
13	30-Nov	Contracts <i>Kidd, Jr., D. L., & Daughtrey, Jr., W. H. (200). Adapting Contract Law to Accommodate Electronic Contracts: Overview and Suggestions. Rutgers Computer and Technology Law Journal.</i>
14	04-Dec	Review

Links to webpages and articles will be posted on Avenue regularly. Students should expect a response to emails within 48-hours, excluding weekends and holidays. It is your responsibility to read your MAC email on a regular basis. This will ensure that you receive important information from your instructors and the university. Students are encouraged to come to office hours frequently to discuss course material and to seek prompt responses about inquiries about the course.