

Fall 2019

IT 331-101: Privacy, Information, and Technology

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Privacy, Information, and Technology Syllabus IT-331-101

Instructor: Christopher Howell (christopher.howell@njit.edu)

Text: Solove, Schwartz, Privacy, Information, and Technology, 3rd Ed., Wolters Kluwer Law and Business, Frederick, MD 2011, ISBN: 978-0-7355-1042-5.

Schedule: Monday 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM, CKB 330

Course Description

Students completing this course will have an introduction to the issues and scope of information, privacy and technology. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of basic legal concepts affecting privacy and information, including the origins and types of privacy, the Fourth Amendment and emerging technologies, federal electronic surveillance law, and business collection and use of information.

Outline:

1. Introduction, Information Privacy, Technology and the Law
2. Origins and Types of Information Privacy, Philosophical Perspectives
3. The Fourth Amendment and Emerging Technologies
4. Federal Electronic Surveillance Law, Terrorism and Government Computer Searches
5. Public Access to Government Records
6. Government Records of Personal Information and Identification
7. Health and Genetic Privacy
8. Privacy and the Media
9. Business Collection and Use of Personal Data
10. Regulating Business Records and Databases, Spam, Identity Theft
11. Financial Information
12. Government Access to Financial and Business Records
13. Privacy Policies: Private and Public
14. Anonymous speech, Anonymity in Cyberspace, International Privacy Law

Grading:

Assignments/Participation	25%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	25%

Final grades will be computed on a straight scale out of 100 possible points:

90 <= A < 100
85 <= B+ < 90
75 <= B < 85
70 <= C+ < 75
60 <= C < 70
50 <= D < 60
F < 50

I do not give extra-credit assignments.

Format

This course will strike a balance between lecture, discussion, assignments, reading, online and self study. The course schedule as posted in Moodle should be considered the authoritative source for what is expected of you each week. Students are expected to demonstrate self-motivation and personal responsibility to avoid falling behind. **Keep up with the reading!** Note that the work that makes up your final grade is not concentrated at the end of the course. I encourage you to use time before, during, and after class as well as the discussion threads in Moodle to engage me and your fellow students along the way.

Lectures

Lectures are scheduled to be held every other week. You can find a copy of the slides on Moodle at:

<http://moodle.njit.edu>

You'll need your UCID and password to login.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the start of each lecture and attendance reported to the department. Frequent absences will impact your grade and may affect your enrollment/scholarships/etc. If you must miss a class or exam because of a religious observance, it is your responsibility to inform me within the first two weeks of classes to which days you will be missing.

Assignments

Assignments will be given out via Moodle. **It is your responsibility to check Moodle regularly and submit all assignments as directed on or before the due date. Assignments will not be accepted late without prior approval.**

Assessments

The midterm and final exams make up a significant portion of your overall grade. There will be four quizzes given throughout the semester, as well. The format for these assessments will be varied (multiple choice, fill in, short answer, etc...). Quizzes and the Midterm will be given via Moodle and will be subjected to a time limit for completion. **All assessments will be in closed book/notes format (including those given via Moodle) and will cover material presented in the text and lectures. Students must bring a pen and paper to class on the day of the final. It is your responsibility to check Moodle regularly and complete all assessments within the noted availability and completion time windows. I do not give makeup tests or allow students to take exams on alternate dates without a legitimate reason (e.g., jury duty, serious medical problem, active duty demands).** If you have an emergency, I will make allowances as long as you provide proper documentation. If such a circumstance occurs, you must inform me immediately via email.

Sample Exam Questions

1. Solove describes his opinion about why current efforts to stop identity theft don't work. Briefly describe Solove's logic and indicate whether you agree or disagree and why.
2. Since its inception, Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act has been controversial. Describe what, if any, privacy issues are present.

Sample Quiz Questions:

1. What motivated Warren and Brandies to write the article, "The Right to Privacy" in 1890?
2. In the Sidis case discussed in the beginning of Ch. 1, the court ruled against Sidis in a privacy suit. What was the basis for the Court's ruling? Do you agree and why?
3. List and briefly define the four kinds of invasions of privacy William Prosser wrote about in 1960.

Collaboration

You are encouraged to work together with your classmates in order to help you gain a high-level understanding of the material presented in the course. **Any** work presented for credit must be work created **on your own**. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other anti-intellectual behavior will be dealt with as per the NJIT Honor Code.

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

Please read the Code prior to our first class. In the instance that a student's work appears to be a derivative of another's, both will receive zero credit for the work and will be referred to the Dean of Students. There will be NO exceptions.

NJIT Campus Schedule

Information regarding important dates during the semester may be found at:

<http://www.njit.edu/registrar/>