COURSE: LAWS 3501A -- Law in the Information Society

TERM: Winter 2009-10

PREREQUISITES: One of LAWS 2003, or LAWS 2004, or LAWS 2005 or permission of the Department

CLASS: Day & Time: Friday 11:35 – 14:25
Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location

INSTRUCTOR: John Shiga

CONTACT: Office: D476 LA (contract instructors’ office)
Office Hrs: I am available to discuss course-related issues with you. Please email me and I will arrange to time to meet with you.
Email: jshiga@connect.carleton.ca

"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary Letters of Accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible, but no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first test requiring accommodations. For further information, please see: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by March 12, 2010 for April examinations.

For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: www.carleton.ca/equity

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From transgenic organisms to file-sharing networks to electronic implants, information technologies challenge traditional modes of regulating communication, culture and biological life and open new possibilities for control. This course introduces students to information jurisprudence, emphasizing the interrelations between law, technology and other forms of knowledge, action and regulation. The primary aim of this course is to develop students’ capacity to critically engage with constructions of the information society in legal and regulatory discourses. Students will be introduced to a variety of theoretical frameworks for conceptualizing and analyzing law and the social relations of information technology. We will explore competing definitions and perspectives of the information society articulated in disputes about access, ownership, surveillance, censorship, security, privacy, and expression.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Most required texts are available online via the course’s WebCT site or the Library’s website. Required texts which are not available online will be placed on reserve at the MacOdrum Library and the Chet Mitchell library in the Loeb building.
EVALUATION

(All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)

1. **Participation: 20%**
   
   Your participation grade will be based on attendance, in-class discussions and activities, and contributions to WebCT discussion. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

2. **Midterm exam: 25%**
   
   The midterm will be written in-class on February 5. It will cover material from the readings and lectures. More detailed information will be provided in class.

3. **Group presentation: 20%**
   
   At the beginning of term, each student will sign up for a group presentation topic. Students will prepare and deliver a presentation with their group in class. Groups should also submit a one-page typed summary for the instructor. The presentation must be given in class on the day for which the group has signed up. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

4. **Final essay: 35%**
   
   Each student will prepare a final paper due on March 26. Your essay should be 10-12 pages including a bibliography. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings and Materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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Have a look at ONI’s filtering maps: [http://opennet.net/research/map](http://opennet.net/research/map) |
Jan 29  Privacy, commerce and surveillance


Feb 5  Hackers, hacktivists and cybercriminals


Feb 12  MIDTERM (in-class)

Feb 19  READING WEEK – NO CLASS

Feb 26  Code as object and agent of regulation


Mar 5  Artificial intelligence in ecommerce law


Guest lecturer: Prof. Sheryl Hamilton

Mar 12  Copyright, authorship and freedom of expression


Mar 19  Piracy networks

Mar 26  Digital and genetic identification

ESSAYS DUE TODAY


Apr 2  GOOD FRIDAY – NO CLASS

Apr 5  Bioinformational networks; Wrap-up