IT-304 001 IT in the Global Economy-Spring 2020 Syllabus

Place & Time: Online
Instructor: Sandra Sargent
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Office Hours (by prior appointment): online

Teaching Assistant: For all questions relating to the course, assignments, and grading, please contact the TA assigned to your section: TBD

Pre-requisites: To be eligible to take IT 304, students must have already completed, earning at least a grade of C in either IT 103 Introduction to Computing or IT 104 Introduction to Computing.

Note: Students cannot get credit for both IT 304 and CS 305 or CS 306. IT 304 fulfills the general education (Mason Core) requirement in Information Technology (ethics only).

Catalog Description
IT 304 looks at the consequences of using IT; it explores how IT has changed the nature of society and is continuing to influence evolution of the global economy and society. It examines the changing nature of work, education, and communication, and ethical issues such as intellectual property rights, computer-related crime, privacy concerns, and public policy issues.

More detail on course objectives: This course is an approved general education course in IT Ethics and is designed to meet the objective: “general education courses should encourage students to make important connections across boundaries.” This course will illustrate how IT is changing the nature of work, identity, communication, our society and world economies. The role of IT as both a facilitator and driver of globalization will be presented. Legal and social issues will be examined. Students will discuss and write about their research and views with respect to information privacy, intellectual property, computer related crime, e-commerce related regulation, and other public policy issues.

Course Outcomes: Students will gain an appreciation of the following topics.

• Rapid rate of technological change and its impact on societies around the world Role of IT in:
  • The globalization of economies, crime, culture, and shifts in global power
  • The changing nature of work, governance, identity, communications, and loss of privacy
  • Creating a global civil society and facilitating the work of NGOs, and consortia
  • Economic development and meeting UN Millennium Development Goals
Have a basic understanding of the international laws and treaties in place with respect to e-commerce, intellectual property, computer-related crime, taxation and trade as well as other aspects of internet gov-
• Gain knowledge of professional codes of ethics, ethical decision making models and processes
• Appreciate how growing reliance on IT affects the environment

Grading: All students are graded on how well they:

• learn key terms and concepts,
• can express, in writing and orally, their thoughts on the state of IT’s influence on economy and society, and
• participate in class discussions

Midterm Exam 20% - assessed on 2 hour online exam
Final Exam 20% - assessed on 2 hour online exam
Homework 20% - assessed on 5 homework assignments
Research Paper and Presentation- 20% - assessed on quality of paper and presentation
Student Participation 20% - assessed on discussions of student papers presentations on 5 cases and one independent research.

Grading structure:

97 – 100% A+;  93 – 96% A;  90 – 92% A-
87 – 89% B+ ;  83 – 86% B;  80 – 82% B-
77 - 79 C+ ;  73 - 76 C;  70 - 72 C-
67 – 69% D+ ;  60 – 66% D;  0 – 59% F

Individual Research Paper and Presentation: Each student is required to choose, write and submit a scholarly research paper (~3-5 pages) describing an emerging technology and the ethical and/or societal challenges associated with the selected technology. Each topic must be approved by the instructor prior to any research being completed.

Each student will prepare a voice annotated presentation that will summarize their paper findings to the class during second half of the semester.

Both papers and presentations will be shared with the class for written feedback on discussion board.

Student participation: Student participation will be assessed though participation in a discussion board peer review of other students work.
The Midterm and Final Exams will be held online during the exam weeks. Exams will include a variety of question types including multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay questions that will require a solid understanding of course materials. The final exam will be held during the scheduled final exam period posted on the GMU Registrar's website: http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/

All work on the exam must be your work, no assistance from others is allowed.

No Make-up exams will be given due to the online nature of the course.

Announcements, materials, and related resources for this course are available on-line through: Blackboard at https://blackboard.gmu.edu

All assignments (homework, discussion topics, checkpoints) are submitted through blackboard.

Communication: Registered students will be given access to a section of the Blackboard Learning System for this course. Blackboard will be used as the primary mechanism to disseminate course information, lecture slides and materials, any lab project(s), and homework assignments. Professor will use the announcement function on the Blackboard to clarify assignments and alert students of deadlines. Communication with the Instructor on issues relating to the individual student should be conducted using GMU email, telephone, or in person meeting.

Textbooks: There is no textbook for this course. There is a directed reading list of articles and videos that are required material. All articles are available online. Your instructor will provide the list of readings to your section - not all sections necessarily have the same readings.

Course policies: Late work will not be accepted. There are no make up assignments for this course.

Students with disabilities: Students that require accommodation should register with the GMU Office of Disability Services (ODS - 703-993-2474; http://ods.gmu.edu) and notify the instructor well before the assignments are due.

Writing Center: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; http://writigncenter.gmu.edu

Honor Code: While students are encouraged to discuss topics and solutions to problems, students must submit their own, original, work. All students are expected to abide by the George Mason University Honor System and Code (which contains a definition of plagiarism, amongst other things). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. This is an IT ethics class and you are IT professionals. All assignments are to be individual efforts. It should always be clear which words are yours and which are someone else’s. If you are unsure how to cite a quotation properly, ask for assistance. Do not paraphrase. If you have questions or need help with writing, please ask or contact the Writing Center. Each student is expected to enlist the aid of an independent proofreader to proofread each written assignment. Further related information is available from IEEE and ACM.

Note that we reserve the right to submit student work for automated testing against other submitted work to confirm a submission’s originality.

University Policy: The University Catalog, http://catalog.gmu.edu, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.
Course Materials: Blackboard (https://mymason.gmu.edu/) Note: password will be the same as your GMU email password.) Textbook: None. Required readings: a reading list of journal articles is available for each lecture at the blackboard. See Blackboard for Reading Assignments.

Mid-Term Exam: March 2-6, 2020
Final Exam: May 4-8, 2020
Term Papers are due on the date of Presentation

Week# Date Summary of lecture

Class Schedule Subject to change. Check Blackboard weekly for announcements and updates.

Week# Date Summary of Lecture
4. September 14: Core Lecture 4: Basic Legal Frameworks in Internet Governance. Role of International Organizations. Legal and ethical issues related to digital technologies; global governance of digital technologies; impact on national sovereignty; international organizations. Discussion of midterm exam plus selection of teams and topics for class presentations.
6. September 28: Mid-Term Exam Prep-Review Class
7. October 5-12: Mid-Term Exam
8. October 13-October 18th: Fall Break
10. October 26: Case 2: Ethical implications of New Technologies such as AI, Big Data, self driven vehicles, use or robotics, blockchain, etc. Presentation and Final Paper.
11. November 2: Case 3: Digital Technologies and Connectivity and how it is reshaping global economy and society at large. Presentation and Final Paper.


15. November 30: **Review of Course Material** and Final Exam preparation

16. December 9: **Final Exam**