

VSU MLIS Program
MLIS 7610 Syllabus
Information Policy
Summer 2005

Instructor: Dr. Wallace Koehler

Office Hours

Because this is a Web-based course, I will post no formal office hours. I can be reached by phone during normal business hours, by e-mail 24-7 at wkoehler@valdosta.edu, and appointments can be made as needed. Phone 229 333 5860.

Technical Requirements

Students must have access to the WWW. In additions, all students must have and use a VSU e-mail address. We will communicate via Blazenet.

Course Description

Prerequisite or Corequisite: MLIS 7000 or consent of instructor. Study of governmental information policy, with emphasis on the United States. Issues include privacy, intellectual property, access to information, media deregulation, and networking initiatives.

Objectives and Outcomes

In this course students will be exposed to information, information policy, information politics, information technology, and information economics at both the national and international levels. Successful students will be able to:

1. Identify substantive issue areas in information policy, such as privacy, intellectual property, access to information, media deregulation, and national networking initiatives.
2. Understand policies related to the creation, collection, organization, storage, retrieval, repackaging, dissemination, utilization, archiving, management, and destruction of publicly-held information
3. Appreciate who the major stakeholders are in information policy development and implementation. How do stakeholders interact and inter-relate?

4. Understand approaches to public policy – theory and practice – and draw on various disciplinary approaches to public policy analysis
5. Gain familiarity with government documents – electronic and print.
6. Speculate on the interplay between policy, technology, and economic interests on national and global scales.

Textbook

Lester, June, & Koehler, Wallace C. (2003). *Fundamentals of Information Studies*. New York: Neal-Schuman. We will use the printed text and its Web updates. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 10 are required reading. Other chapters are optional. Note that this text contains extensive references.

Readings

Shapir, Carl, & Varian, Hal R. (1997). *US Government Information Policy*. Berkeley: University of California. Available:
<http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/~hal/Papers/policy/policy.html>

Assignments

A. It is assumed that all students are familiar with the policy making process of the US federal government. For those who need a review, the following brief supplementary material from another course is attached.
<http://books.valdosta.edu/mlis/govdoc/GOVDOCS/polysci.htm>

Classes Begin June 8
Classes End July 26

Formal written assignments: three five page papers not to exceed ten (10) pages, 12 pt, 1.5 space, 1 inch margins. Each paper will represent 25% of grade. All written assignments must have at least ten references (not including the assigned text).

On-line discussion each week is required. Discussion represents 25% of grade. A subject will be posted each week to the class list. Be sure to document discussion statements with citations to the literature (at least one reference). Suggestions for possible discussion issues are welcome.

Written Assignment 1: Identify and describe a major stakeholder in US information policy. How does this stakeholder articulate its needs? How is it regulated? How does the stakeholder participate in the policy process? The

stakeholder may be corporate, not-for-profit, or government. Examples include public libraries, the FCC, broadcasters using public airways, cable and satellite broadcasters, Internet providers, Webmasters, and so on. **Due June 18.**

Written Assignment 2: What are the major US federal government information policy making bodies? To whom are they responsible and how do they function? **Due July 2.**

Written Assignment 3: Maintain a file of all on-line discussions. Choose any three of the discussion subjects and elaborate extensively on those issues. **Due July 26.**

Suggested Supplemental Readings

This is a research oriented course – it includes both reading and writing. The following are suggested as possible *beginning* resources.

Andersen, David F., & Dawes, Sharon S. (1991). *Government information management: A primer and casebook*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Bennett, Tony. (1992). Putting policy into cultural studies. In Lawrence Grossberg, Cary Nelson, & Paula Treicher (Eds.), *Cultural studies* (pp. 23-37). NY: Routledge.

Bozeman, Barry, & Bretschneider, Stuart. (1986). Public management information systems: Theory and prescription. *Public Administration Review*, 46, 475-487.

Browne, Mairead. (1997a). The field of information policy: 1. Fundamental concepts. *Journal of Information Science*, 23(4), 261-275.

Browne, Mairead. (1997b). The field of information policy: 2. Redefining the boundaries and methodologies. *Journal of Information Science*, 23(5), 339-351.

Burger, Robert H. (1993). *Information policy: A framework for evaluation and policy research*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex.

"Caught in the Net." (2001). *The Economist*, 358(8214), 26 [2001 March 24-30]

Chartrand, Robert. (1986). Legislating information policy. *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science*, 12(5), 10.

Doty, Philip. (1998). Why study information policy? *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 39(1), 58-64.

- Easton, David. (1965). *A systems analysis of political life*. NY: Wiley
- Eisenschitz, Tamara S. (1993). *Information transfer policy: Issues of control and access*. London: Library Association Publishing
- Foerstel, Herbert (2004). *Refuge of a Scoundrel: The Patriot Act in Libraries*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.
- Hayes, Robert M. (Ed.). (1985). Introduction. *Libraries and the information economy of California* (pp. 1-49). Los Angeles, CA: University of California at Los Angeles.
- Heim, Kathleen. (1986). National information policy and a mandate for oversight by the information professions. *Government Publications Review*, 13(1), 21-37.
- Hernon, Peter. (1994). Information life cycle: Its place in the management of U.S. government information resources. *Government Information Quarterly*, 11(2), 143-170.
- Hernon, Peter, & McClure, Charles R. (1991). United States information policies. In Wendy Schipper and M. Cunningham (Eds.), *National and international information policies* (pp. 3-48). Philadelphia, PA: National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services.
- Mason, Marilyn Gell. (1983). *The federal role in library and information services*. White Plains, NY: Knowledge Industry Publications.
- Overman, E. Sam, & Cahill, Anthony G. (1990). *Information policy: A study of values in the policy process*. *Policy Studies Review*, 9(4), 803-818.
- Rowlands, Ian. (1996). Understanding information policy: Concepts, frameworks and research tools. *Journal of Information Science*, 22(1), 13-25.
- Russell, Carrie (2004). *Complete Copyright: An Everyday Guide for Librarians*. Chicago: ALA OITP.
- Stevens, John M., & McGowan, Robert P. (1985). *Information systems and public management*. NY: Praeger.
- Trauth, Eileen M. (1986). An integrative approach to information policy research. *Telecommunications Policy*, 10(1), 41-50.
- Weingarten, F. W. (1989). Federal information policy development: The Congressional perspective. In Charles R. McClure, Peter Hernon, & Harold Relyea (Eds.), *United States government information policies: Views and perspectives* (pp. 77-99). Norwood, NJ: Ablex.

Grades

Individual assignment weights are provided above. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A – 91-100

B – 81-90

C – 71-80

D – 61-70

F – 0-60

University Policies

Please become aware of and be guided by these VSU policies.

Access Office for Students with Disabilities:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/ssp/index.shtml>

Academic Dishonesty, p. 248 of Graduate Catalog, 2004/05:

http://www.valdosta.edu/catalog/0405/grad/catalog_0405_grad_242-248.pdf

Student Code of Conduct: http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/handbook/pages_39-48.pdf

Equal Opportunity Statement:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/eopma/eos.shtml>

Sexual Harassment:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/legal/shp.html>