

**City University of Hong Kong**

**Information on a Course  
offered by Department of Media and Communication  
with effect from Semester A in 2014 / 2015**

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**Part I**

Course Title: Policy and Regulations of New Media

Course Code: COM5103

Course Duration: 1 semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: Nil

Exclusive Courses: Nil

**Part II**

**Course Aims:**

The course aims to equip students with knowledge of and abilities to discover and analyze a wide range of issues in the policy, ethics and regulations of the new media, with an emphasis on multimedia and online communication technologies and telecommunications. It covers topics such as cyberlaw, computer law, new media and computer crime, intellectual property and copyright, privacy and libel issues, regulation of "deviant" expression such as dissident political speech and obscenity, the impact of regulations on discourses, new media ethics, and general national telecommunications policies in the world.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

*Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:*

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Demonstrate comprehension of the basic concepts and theories in legal and policy studies in the area of new media	30%
2.	Demonstrate knowledge of and abilities to discover the different legal and political systems in the world, especially the civil law and common law traditions	30%
3.	Critically analyze various legal and policy issues related to the new media	20%
4.	Discover and propose solid policy recommendations and/or legal reforms	20%

### Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

*(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)*

CILO No	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
1 & 2	Lectures which will: 1) cover the basic theories and concepts in legal and policy studies related to the new media, 2) examine the differences and commonalities in various legal and political systems, 3) examine and discover world-wide trend in the regulation of the new media, and 4) Investigate various specific laws and policies and cases in network security, intellectual property, privacy, libel, regulation of "deviant" expression, online obscenity, new media ethics, and telecommunications policies	2 (for 12 weeks)
3 & 4	Class discussions which involve applying theories to the analysis and discovery of various legal and policy cases and making legal and policy recommendations	1 (for 12 weeks)
3 & 4	Conduct group research on selected themes and issues of regulation and policy of the new media	NA

## Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
1-4	Research paper (15 pages)	50%	
1-4	Examination (2 hours)	50%	

**Grading of Student Achievement:** Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Grading pattern: Standard (A+, A, A-....F). The overall grade is based on student's overall performance in all assessment tasks/activities considered together. The meanings of the overall letter grades will be in line with those listed in the Academic Regulations.

More specific grading criteria for selected assessment tasks/activities are as follows:

Writing a full-blown research paper (15 pages)

- Originality
- Critical ability
- Application of theories
- Data/evidence
- Legal/policy recommendations and discoveries
- Organization and presentation

Weighting of the different criteria and other details will be given to the students during class.

Courses are graded according to the following schedule:

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definitions	
A+	4.3	Excellent:	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse, discover and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	4.0		
A-	3.7		
B+	3.3	Good:	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.
B	3.0		
B-	2.7		

C+	2.3	Adequate:	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
C	2.0		
C-	1.7		
D	1.0	Marginal:	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.
F	0.0	Failure:	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.
P		Pass:	"Pass" in a pass-fail course. Courses to be graded on a pass-fail basis for a programme are specifically identified under the programme in the course catalogue.

### Part III

#### Keyword Syllabus:

Cyberlaw, computer law, new media and computer security, intellectual property, privacy, libel, regulation of "deviant" expression such as dissident political speech and obscenity, the impact of regulations on discourses, new media ethics, and general national telecommunications policies.

#### Recommended Reading:

##### Text(s)

Stephenson, Paul; Kwan, Alisa & Ellis, David (2001). *Cyberlaw in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Butterworths Asia. [CityU Library Call#: KNR109.S48 2001, under 5-hour semi-closed reserve]

Carter, T. Barton. (1999). *The First Amendment and the Fifth Estate: Regulation of Electronic Mass Media*. [CityU Library Call#: KF2805.C37 1999, under 5-hour semi-closed reserve]

Committee on Intellectual Property Rights and the Emerging Information Infrastructure (2000). *The Digital Dilemma: Intellectual Property in the Information Age*. National Academy Press. [CityU Library Call#: KF2979 .D53 2000, under 5-hour semi-closed reserve]

##### Other reference / online resources

Lessig, L. (1999). *Code: and other laws of cyberspace*. Basic Books. [CityU Library Call#: KF390.5.C6 L47 1999, under 5-hour semi-closed reserve]

Gerald R. Ferrera et al. (2001). *Cyberlaw: text and cases*. Thomson Learning. [CityU Library Call#: KF390.5.C6 C93 2001]