

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Media and Communication
with effect from Semester A 2019/20**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Policy and Regulations of New Media

Course Code: COM5103

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

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.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
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%		✓	
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Lectures	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)
Class discussions	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)
Group research	Conduct group research on selected themes and issues of regulation and policy of the new media			✓	✓	NA

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 50%						
Quizzes	✓	✓	✓	✓	20%	
Group presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓	30%	
Examination	✓	✓	✓	✓	50%	
Examination: 50% (duration: 2 hours)					100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1.Quizzes		High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
2.Group presentation		High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
3. Examination		High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

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.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	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]
2.	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]
3.	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]

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	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]
2.	Gerald R. Ferrera et al. (2001). Cyberlaw: text and cases. Thomson Learning. [CityU Library Call#: KF390.5.C6 C93 2001]