SIE 525 Information Systems Law

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I. OVERVIEW

Course Objectives
This course reviews the current status of information systems law in regard to rights of privacy, freedom of information, confidentiality, work product protection, copyright, security, legal liability, and a range of additional legal and information policy topics. We will investigate the legal difficulties that technological innovations are causing in all of these areas. We will focus particularly on these issues in regard to their impact on the use of digital data work products and databases. Legal options for dealing with the con icts caused by technological change and likely adaptations of the law over time in response to societal changes will be explored.

A. Class Sessions: On-Campus Students
   Date and Time: Tues and Thursday, 11:00 – 12:15 Tues & Thurs, Room 336 Boardman Hall
Assignments: Assignments and their due dates and times are posted on the syllabus.
Archived Broadcasts: Links to the class videos are made available at the end of each class day through the course Blackboard site under the ***Class Sessions Videos Archive*** link in the left menu. Please view the video of any session you miss.
   Live Video Broadcasts: If you have a soft voice, please sit near a microphone so that students at a distance can pick up your voice on the recording. If you need to travel, you can participate live from anywhere with good Internet access. The live stream is available at a Zoom link on Blackboard. Always use ear buds or headphones when at a distance. Headphones with a microphone are highly recommended if you participate from some place noisy like a coffee shop.
   Live Office Hours with the Instructor: Attend the online office hours as described below or make arrangements to meet with the instructor just before or after class or otherwise in his office as appropriate.

Class Sessions: Online Students
   Assignments: Assignments and their due dates and times are posted on the syllabus. Online students should do the module assignments at any time of your choosing before the indicated deadlines. Please feel free to complete them well in advance since they relate primarily to the readings rather than to the recorded class lectures.
Recorded Broadcasts: In-class sessions are video recorded each Tuesday and Thursday morning. View any previous lectures before the virtual (Zoom) office hours you plan to attend. Links to the class videos are made available at the end of each day through the course Blackboard site under the ***Class Sessions Videos Archive*** link in the left menu. (Note: If a live session fails to record due to technical difficulties I will either record again the lecture portion of the session or post a video on the same topic from a previous year.)
   Live Video Broadcasts: Online students are NOT expected to attend the live class sessions (whether virtual or on campus) at 11:00 on Tuesday and Thursday but may do so at your option. If you do so at a distance, please place your microphone in the Zoom menu on mute and wear ear buds or headphones when you unmute.

Live Office Hours with the Instructor (Video Chat on Zoom): View class videos (the lectures and in-class student discussions) at times of your own choosing during the week but before any live session in which you intend to participate. Live sessions are available though the persistent Zoom link in the left menu on Blackboard. While NOT mandatory, students often nd the live sessions very productive for asking questions and discussing points not raised in the lectures. If joining by video (preferred), you should activate your camera so we can see you and you should wear earbuds or headphones to prevent others from receiving audio feedback. Students that regularly attend the o ce hours tend to learn more and perform better than those that don't.

Zoom Details
Type in your real name when joining the Zoom conference and activate your camera.
   Join from Web (PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android): https://zoom.us/j/6161684876
   Join using iPhone one-tap: US: +16468769923,,6161684876# or
   +16699006833,,6161684876#
   Join using Telephone:
   Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
   US: +1 646 876 9923 **or** +1 669 900 6833 **or** +1 408 638 0968
   Meeting ID: 616 168 4876
   International numbers available upon request

B. Course Materials
   Note that this is a graduate course in information systems law and ethical issues for non-law students. As such, substantial time is spent on introductory legal concepts. The typical enrolled student is pursuing a graduate program in information systems, spatial informatics, computing/computer science, business administration, engineering, or another domain in which a knowledge of cyberlaw issues may be of value. We will focus on overview books and sources for most of the readings rather than use the text of case law or legislation.
   Required readings include several books, chapters of books and articles. If links to readings happen to be dead, check the Course Material Backups page for archived copies of the open access articles (hint: chickenGravy). The reading assignments are much heavier than experienced normally in engineering or computing courses so you should begin them immediately and pace yourself to ensure their completion. The required textbooks are available through the sources listed under Lectures and Assignments. Most of the readings are available openly on the web through open access licenses. They are also often available by ordering them from online sources if you prefer published paper copies.
   Course lectures will NOT correspond exactly with the readings. Keep up with the assignments regardless of the current topic being covered in the lectures. Additional reading materials may be made available and linked from the web syllabus over time. Location tracking and geographic data con ict examples are often used in this course to illustrate principles.
Supplemental Instructions:
Term Paper Formatting (not germane this semester)
Book Review Instructions and Book List for Book Review Assignment

C. Grading and Class Policies
   Grades in this course will be based on the quality and completion of all requirements listed on the syllabus. The requirements may be reasonably altered at the discretion of the instructor as the course progresses. As a graduate level course, you are expected to exhibit high quality work that demonstrates sound understanding of the concepts and their complexity. Your written work should re ect professional quality in composition as well as in spelling and grammar. Earning an "A" represents oral and written work that is of exceptionally high quality and demonstrates superb understanding of the course material. A "B" grade represents oral and

written work that is of good quality and demonstrates a sound understanding of course material. A "C" grade represents a minimally adequate completion of assignments and participation demonstrating a limited understanding of course material.

Although subject to change, grades are typically weighted as follows:
- **30%** written responses to the **module assignments** (and class participation for on-campus students)
- **10%** read and provide a detailed **review of a book** that addresses contemporary information systems law or policy issues (there may be a book club option)
- **10%** completion of a **legal badge**
- **25% mid-term exam** – involves a complex legal scenario involving several con icts that you as a hypothetical attorney need to analyze and resolve for your client
- **25% final exam** – a sit down 2-hour problem scenario exam

SELF ASSESSMENT OF GRADE TO DATE:

Because you are able to read the ongoing module responses of all other students in the course, continually ask yourself:

Was my response among the top ve responses in terms of being comprehensive, accurate, insightful and thoughtful? Was my response on par with at least the top half of the other class responses?

Was my response obviously below the majority of other responses in terms of comprehensiveness or was it o topic or mistaken in terms of assessing one or more core issues

GENERAL GRADING RUBRICS FOR MODULE RESPONSES:

The following rubrics will generally apply but necessarily will vary somewhat depending on the nature and content of the readings and issues being addressed. Module responses will be assessed from low-to-high scale as follows:
1. Non-responsive or little evidence that readings were understood or perhaps even read.
2. Arguably substantive response but without clarification, explanation, or reasoning.
3. Substantively responsive reflecting understanding of the covered concepts
4. Thoughtful reflection, analysis, or critique in addition to responsiveness and understanding
5. Additional exceptional insights, perspectives, analyses, or syntheses.

Even if late, all module question responses MUST BE SUBMITTED before the end of the semester or you will receive an incomplete in the course.

D. Communications

Delivery of Assignments and Class Notices:

While assignments are made on the *Lectures and Assignments* web page, the course will use **Blackboard** for delivery of completed assignments. Blackboard interfaces are automatically established for all UMaine courses each semester.

Find *Blackboard* at https://mycampus.maine.edu (the yellow and black Bb icon). All officially enrolled students are automatically enrolled into the Blackboard course. The course should appear as active in your Blackboard course list. **Click** on SIE 525 *Information Systems Law*.

Class Announcements: The instructor may occasionally issue class notices or make announcements to all students on the main course page of *Blackboard*. The course website is also accessible from the left menu.

Module Assignments: Your regular module assignments will be submitted under the ***Student Module Submissions*** link under ***Assignments*** found in the left menu. At the beginning of the course and as new module questions are placed on the syllabus, copy all questions from the web syllabus for all modules into a single word processing document. This is your ***master module document***. Remove all formatting from the document leaving only

numbered questions and your personal responses. The entire compiled document will need to be submitted at the end of the semester.

Before each module assignment deadline, type responses to the questions for the module in your master document.

Copy your response for each module question one-by-one from your master document and paste each into Blackboard. Follow these links: **Student Module Submissions** > choose one of **Modules A through Z** > choose the appropriate **Question** > *s*elect **Create Thread** under the question > **paste in your response** > click **Submit**.

Only AFTER you make each question submission will you be able to see the responses of others to the same question. If you return after the deadline (8:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays), all on-time submissions of your classmates should be visible.

Continue the process until you have transferred into Blackboard responses to all questions within the assigned module.

Review of Class Response Compilations: During the Tuesday and Thursday class sessions the instructor will often review or highlight some of the responses submitted the evening before. Please look at the list of all submissions by your peers prior to attending class if attending live.

End of Semester Files: These products must be delivered ONLY as Word or PDF les and each will be delivered as a le in the appropriate section under **Assignments**. Click on the appropriate item (Book Review, etc.) and on the page that comes up, look for "Browse My Computer" to select the le from your computer to upload. Click on "Submit" to send the le. The les should be named starting with your last name and take the form of the following:

Smith – Personal Module Submissions Compilation
Smith – Law Shelf Badge Documentation
Smith – Book Review

E. Important Notices

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is expected. Plagiarism is unacceptable in this course and will result in a failing grade. "Although a writer may use other persons' words and thoughts, they must be acknowledged as such." Joseph Gibaldi and Walter S. Achtert, MLA Handbook (Modern Language Association) 1977, p. 4. The instructor has the option of checking all submissions in the course against SafeAssign (embedded in BlackBoard), TurnItIn, and similar plagiarism checkers.

Important Disability Notice
Academic Honesty Notice Nondiscrimination Notice UMaine Student Code of Conduct Classroom Civility
Sexual Discrimination Reporting
Course Schedule Disclaimer
Contingency Plans in the Event of an Epidemic
Copyright Notice for Materials Accessible through this Website

F. Instructor Office Hours & Discussion Sessions

For one-on-one discussions with the instructor, E-mail to harlan.onsrud@maine.edu We can then arrange a phone conversation or in-person meeting as needed. An alternative method might be to send a query to selected (or all) classmates through the Blackboard message interface.

II. LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

I. Texts and Online Resources

You will read selected chapters out of several texts and online resources for this course. The first two resources are openly available on the web. You should purchase the second book and potentially the third book but the text and the remainder of the course materials are openly available online.

Resource 1. **BITLAW Readings** (free)
This material provides a primer covering basic cyberlaw issues from traditional or conventional legal perspectives. The material is drawn from primarily BitLaw (created by Daniel A. Tysver (http://www.bitlaw.com), Wikipedia, and the U.S. Patent and TrademarkOffice. Find links to the Bitlaw readings at Selected Web Readings and Videos. Read all the material under all of the numbered topics when they are assigned.

Resource 2: **Law Shelf Video Courses** (free)
This is an online resource for self-learning by paralegals. You are free to use it. Find links to the Law Shelf videos at Selected Web Readings and Videos. When a topic is assigned, view or read all modules under that topic.

Resource 3 (Textbook): **Internet Law: Cases and Problems**
James Grimmelmann (2019 version – download the pdf version for the $30 suggested price at http://semaphorepress.com/InternetLaw_overview.html)

Free legal textbooks for further reference are listed in Section 1 of the Booklist. Books in other sections of the list may be readily purchased on line in digital or paper form.

II. Further Articles and Supplementary Materials Used in the Course
Further journal and news articles are (or will be) listed in the following schedule and linked. If links are not working, the material should also eventually be contained in the Course Material Backups.

III. Approximate Schedule of Lectures and Assignments
Videos for class sessions below will become available at the Blackboard site under Class Sessions Video Archive.
In the following table you should not download any slides until right before the class is held. Most if not all will be updated right before the scheduled lecture.

Week	Topic
1	Introduction
	(continued)
2	Liability
	(continued)
3	Intellectual Property Basics
	Copyright and Licenses
4	Patents
	continued)
5	Trademarks
	Trade Secrets
6	Website Development Issues
	American Court System and Evidence
7	Jurisdiction and the Internet

	(continued)
8	Contracts
	Antitrust and Net Neutrality
9	Free Speech
	(continued)
10	Privacy
	(continued)
11	(continued)
	Ethics
12	Access to Government Information: National
	Access to Government Information: State and Local
13	Taxation in E-Commerce and Financial Transactions
	Open Access Licenses
14	Open Access to Research
	Review
15	Final Exam Week

IV. Class Process and Assignments

1. Post Your Regular Module Responses in Blackboard: Each module assignment listed below requires each student to respond to all of the questions posed and post the responses in the Blackboard folder by the day and time indicated. That is, posting is required by both on-campus and on-line students prior to the on-campus class period in which the material will be discussed. See item D under the Overview for the Delivery of Module Assignments to Blackboard.

Be concise yet thoughtful and use complete sentences. In some instances, a several paragraph response to a question may be appropriate. In other instances, a hundred-words question response may be adequate. You will be able to see the accumulated responses from all students on the morning of the days when we meet.

2. Book Review Assignment: Read an additional book during the semester from Sections II, III, or IV of the Book List. You may also potentially nominate another book to the instructor. After the selection has been approved by the instructor, read the book and then write a summary and review paper on the book that concludes with your own reactions on the issues raised in the book. See the Book Review Instructions The book review is due on or prior to May 4.

3. Personal Module Compilation: Your module compilation consists of all of your personal module assignment responses prepared and submitted throughout the semester accumulated into a single document. You should keep a running Word, or similar document, adding on your submissions as we proceed through the semester. Responses to all modules must be included even if you miss responding on time for a specific class due to illness or otherwise. You may want to review and edit your modules prior to final submission at the end of the semester by considering also the insights supplied by the class discussion. The compilation is due on May 3 and should be posted in the End of Semester Submissions section as follows: <your last name> – SIE 525 Module Compilation

V. Module Assignments

Forthcoming