

DFSC 5318: Cyber Law 2018 Spring

Course Information

Instructor: Mingkui Wei, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Dept. Computer Science, SHSU.
Office Location: 212A, Academic Building I
Phone: (936) 294-3832
E-mail: mwei@shsu.edu
Office Hour: By appointment.

Course Description

The course explores the legal and policy issues associated with the Internet and cyberspace. The course will focus on cases, statutes, regulations, and constitutional provisions that affect people and businesses interacting through computers and the Internet. Topics include intellectual property, e-commerce, online contracts, cybercrimes, torts, and privacy issues.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. Discuss jurisdictional issues in cyberspace.
2. Explain the scope of copyright protection for online content and the fair use defense.
3. Describe the purpose and major provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.
4. Explain the scope of trademark protection for Internet content, software, and other technology related products and services.
5. Explain the scope of patent protection for Internet patents and what is meant by obviousness.
6. Compare and contrast clickwrap agreements and browsewrap agreements
7. Explain the enforceability of e-contracts.
8. Discuss tax-related issues in the online environment.
9. Explain the main federal statutes associated with computer crimes and the penalties associated with cybercrimes.
10. Describe the different tort actions available the online environment, including invasion of privacy.
11. Explain the scope of the First Amendment freedom of speech and the press in the Internet age.
12. Discuss the scope and immunity provision under the Communications Decency Act.
13. Explain the right of privacy in the online environment afforded under the U.S. Constitution, state constitutions, and statutes.
14. Explain the legal and policy issues surrounding privacy with social networking sites, search queries, online advertising, data mining, online privacy policies, and workplace policies.

Text Book

Brian Craig, *Cyberlaw: The Law of the Internet and Information Technology*, 1st ed., Prentice Hall, 2012. (ISBN 10: 0-13-256087-9; ISBN 13: 978-0-13-256087-0).

Instructional Methods

This course combines video lectures, discussions via online discussion board and writing assignments.

Grading

The student's final grade will be determined on a percentage system. Grades are determined as follows:

Final Exam	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Writing Assignment	25%
Discussion Participation	15%
In-class Quiz	15%
Total:	100%

The following grade scale is used to determine the student's final grade:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 0-59%

Attendance

1. Quizzes will be given following the video lecture, which serve as the indicator that you have watched the lecture.
2. Discussion constitutes a big part of the class. For each discussion topic initiated by the instructor, each student is required to submit at least one original post, and reply to at least three other student's posts.
Posts should reflect your critical thinking and be substantial, simple words such as "I agree", etc., will not be considered valid.
(I do not put minimum limit on word count at this time, and please don't let me.)

Late Submissions

Instructor shall be notified for any potential late submission. Otherwise, score of late submissions will be deducted by 20% for each 24 hours past the deadline, and won't be accepted after 120 hours.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Class Conduct

Student will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and/or pagers must be turned off or muted during the class time. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Student for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in Classroom

Occasion visiting of class by responsible persons is allowed with prior arrangement with the instructor, as long as it does not interfere with the registered members of the class or the educational process.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act should go to the Counseling Center and Service for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner to obtain the documentation required. Students are responsible for initiating the process of documenting the need for an accommodation under the ADA act.

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations.

Religious Holidays

An institution for higher education shall excuse a student from attending class or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.