

Syllabus

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Course Objective: A professional or academic involved in the telecommunications industry cannot overlook one of its central characteristics -- that it is a regulated industry. This course introduces you to the basic elements of telecommunications regulation, allowing you to become a better-informed professional with the ability to analyze phenomena in this industry and contextualize them in a broad framework. The course will establish for its students the context for regulation, its justifications, history, structure, principles, standards, technological challenges, economic pressures, and legal solutions. Students will study regulatory concepts in their broadest sense and at the same time will be exposed to specific contemporary and historical issues faced by the industry and debated among practitioners and regulators alike. Further context will be provided by a review of international developments in the field.

Course structure, outline, schedule and reading list:

A. The course readings include the following:

1. Jonathan E. Nuechterlein and Philip J. Weiser (2005) "Digital Crossroads: American Telecommunications Policy in the Internet Age." Cambridge, MA: MIT Press (referred to in the reading list as "N&W")
2. Philip N. Napoli (2001) Foundations of Communications Policy: Principles and Process in the Regulation of Electronic Media. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press (referred to in the reading list as "Napoli")
3. Additional readings as appearing in this syllabus (all electronically accessible on ANGEL under the lessons tab or under "electronic reserves").

B. Readings are assigned according to the class schedule.

C. You are expected to come to class after you have read the assigned reading for the topic to be discussed that day.

Note: The schedule is subject to changes, and will be updated if needed during the course of the semester. Readings may be added, removed or declared "elective." Such information will be announced in class and emailed to students through ANGEL.

D. The telecommunications industry in general, and the regulatory activity within it in particular, are dynamic. While the course deals with concepts, it is important students are able to see their "real life" connection. Understanding regulatory issues requires being informed regarding everyday occurrences in the field. This is also a very good practice to adopt if you intend to be a successful professional in the field. In addition to the course readings, students are required to subscribe and follow daily the "Benton Foundation" communications related headlines,

which can be accessed at: <http://benton.org/user>. Once you are on the link, scroll down to join “Headlines in the Classroom.” The “Educator code” for that classroom is **schejter-16184**. Hit “Create new account” after checking the box next to “Subscribe to Benton’s Headlines”

Six quizzes will be held during the semester on the stories that appeared in this headline service and in other sources that will be discussed in class (the quizzes refer to ALL the stories that appear on the “Benton Headlines” and to stories discussed in class that may have appeared in other sources you were not required to read).

CHAPTER 1: CONCEPTS

Week 1: (8/25) and (8/27)

1. Introduction
2. Chaos or Order? – The U.S. legal system

HAND OUT ASSIGNMENT ONE

Week 2: (9/1) and (9/3)

3. Distributing or Regulating? – The role of the State
- Reading: Napoli (225-252)

ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE

4. Competition law or Telecommunication Law I? – Antitrust regulation basics
- Reading: N & W (10-22; 45-51)
Napoli (153-162)

Week 3: (9/8) and (9/10)

5. Competition law or Telecommunication Law II? – Network regulation basics
- Reading: N&W (4-10; 31-44)
Napoli (11-28)

6. The State or an Independent Regulator? – Types of regulators
- Reading: Napoli (253-274)

Week 4: (9/15) and (9/17)

7. To speak or to be silenced? – The First Amendment
- Reading: Napoli (29-62)
8. The State or the Public? – The public interest standard in telecom regulation
- Reading: Napoli (63-95)

Week 5: (9/22) and (9/24)

9. Sell, Lend or Lease? - Spectrum management issues
- Reading: N&W (225-260)
10. Enough or too many? – Media ownership and digital broadcasting
- Reading: N&W (395-406)

Week 6: (9/29) and (10/1)

11. Review session for Exam #1
12. Exam #1

CHAPTER 2: REGULATING CONTENT

Week 7: (10/6) and (10/8)

13. Public or private? – The idea of public broadcasting
- Reading: McChesney, R. (2004). The problem of the media: U.S. communication politics in the 21st century. New York: Monthly Review Press (pp. 240-251).

14. Fairness or impartiality? – Standards of regulating political speech
Reading: Napoli (52-55, 144-146)

Week 8: (10/13) and (10/15)

15. Reactive or proactive? – Standards for regulating indecent, violent and educational speech
16. Speech or transaction? – Regulation of commercial speech

Week 9: (10/20) and (10/22)

17. Must or must not carry? - Regulation of cable television and Direct Broadcast Satellite I
Reading: N&W (357-371)
18. Must or must not carry? - Regulation of cable television and Direct Broadcast Satellite II
Reading: N&W (375-378; 400-402)

Week 10: (10/27) and (10/29)

19. Review for Exam #2
20. **Exam #2**

CHAPTER 3: REGULATING NETWORKS

Week 11: (11/3) and (11/5)

21. Monopoly or competition? – History of common carrier regulation
Reading: N&W (31-68; 333-351)
22. Bundled or unbundled? –The telecommunications provisions of 1996
Reading: N&W (69-113; 291-332)

Week 12: (11/10) and (11/12)

23. Wired or wireless? – The regulation of mobile networks
Reading: N&W (261-290)
24. Telecommunications or Information? - The boundaries of telecom regulation
Reading: N&W (23-30; 149-155)

Week 13: (11/17) and (11/19)

25. Circuit Switched or Packet Switched? – Regulation of the Internet I
Reading: N&W (115-148)
26. Neutral or Biased? – Regulation of the Internet II
Reading: N&W (168-178)

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14: (12/1) and (12/3)

27. Review session for Exam #3
28. **Exam #3**

CHAPTER 4: WRAPPING UP

Week 15: (12/8) and (12/10)

29. “Reg-Fest 2009”: The Bi-Annual Telecom Regulation Festival – Poster session of regulatory issues Part I.
30. “Reg-Fest 2009”: The Bi-Annual Telecom Regulation Festival – Poster session of regulatory issues Part II.

Grading: There will be one written assignment, 3 exams, 6 current affair quizzes, and a presentation in a “poster session.” They will be graded as following:

Assignment 1	5%
Exam #1:	20% (for a score of 100*)
Exam #2:	20%
Exam #3:	20%
Quizzes 1-6:	25%
“Poster”:	<u>10%</u>
Total:	100%
Bonuses:	5% poster creativity 5% for taking part in the “Race Relations Project.”

These bonuses allow you to compensate for less than satisfactory performance in other assignments, however they do not compensate for missed quizzes or exams.

***In each exam you will be able to score up to 120 points. The extra 20 points can be used to compensate for a less than a 100% performance in another exam, but it cannot compensate for a no-show for an exam or quiz.**

***Only your best 5 quizzes will be counted for your grade, however all no-shows will be counted as well (in other words a “0” will not be counted as your worse quiz.**

***A quiz or exam you miss cannot be made up and will be awarded 0 points toward you final grade. This is a non-debatable issue.**

***If you miss three quizzes or two exams you will receive a failing grade for the course. This issue as well is non-debatable.**

***Any assignment not handed in on time (day and hour) will count as a “0”.**

Race Relations Project: The Race Relations Project (RRP) is a peer-facilitated diversity program that employs trained undergraduate students from Penn State to lead small group discussions on topics of race relations relevant to you and the other students participating. Two facilitators from the RRP encourage participants in your group to express their views and experiences on these issues. Because our mission is to expand the multicultural dialogue, our facilitators do not teach or tell you what you should think. Instead, they encourage you to uncover for yourself what you actually think.

RRP programs occur outside of the regular meeting times of your class. Most programs are held in the evenings, although we do have some day time programs throughout the week to accommodate your schedule. For more information on the RRP, visit our website:
www.racerelationsproject.psu.edu

PARTICIPATION IN THE RRP PROGRAM IS WORTH 5 POINTS TOWARD YOUR GRADE.

Be aware, the programs for this class will only be offered **BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 8TH AND SEPTEMBER 18TH**. One week before the start date you will receive an email explaining how to register for the RRP program. All questions regarding the RRP should be directed to the RRP staff at: racerelationsproject.psu.edu.

Attendance and assignment policy: I do not make distinctions between excused and unexcused absences – I assume that if you are not in class, you have a good reason and it's none of my business. Therefore, I don't want to see doctors' notes, letters from coaches or excuses from parents, for example. Still, **it is not possible to make up missed work done in class, no matter the reason.**

Quizzes and exams begin at the moment declared by the administrator of the quiz or the exam. Once a student has finished either a quiz or exam and has left the classroom, no late entries will be allowed. If you are late to a quiz or exam, you will not be allowed to take it, so always make sure your alarm clock is functioning and that you make it to the bus stop in time.

ANGEL: The course syllabus will be available on ANGEL. We will use ANGEL in this course regularly for information, correspondence, and at times, the distribution of course-related materials and the handing in of assignments; you should therefore check it daily for activity and updates. *As a means of introducing ourselves to one another, please post a picture to ANGEL so your classmates and instructors can sooner put names to faces in efforts to better establish a learning community.*

Personal Communication Devices: Use of cell phones, pagers, ipods, or any other personal communication devices or programs in the classroom during class time is strictly prohibited. You will be asked to leave for the day if you engage in such practices. Repeated offenses may affect your grades. Make sure these devices are turned off prior to entering the classroom.

Food and Beverages: Food and drinks are prohibited in the classroom as a result of past experience with crumbs, spills, and left garbage. Eat and get your caffeine before you come to class. You will be asked to dispose of any food items found in class, and asked to leave if you are found consuming them during class time. Water will be allowed on a trial basis; if garbage is left or spills occur, it will consequently also be prohibited; i.e. drink responsibly. **Likewise, you will be expected to dispose of any newspapers or other materials in your vicinity as you exit class, leaving the room in the best shape possible for the next class session. Take pride in your actions.**

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly and creative activity in an open, honest and responsible manner, free from fraud and deception, and is an educational objective of the College of Communications and the university. Cheating, including plagiarism, falsification of research data, using the same assignment for more than one class, turning in someone else's work, or passively allowing others to copy your work, will result in academic penalties at the discretion of the instructor, and may result in the grade of "XF" (failed for academic dishonesty) being put on your permanent transcript. In serious cases it could also result in suspension or dismissal from the university. As students studying communication, you should understand and avoid plagiarism (presenting the work of others as your own). A discussion of plagiarism, with examples, can be found at: <http://tlt.its.psu.edu/suggestions/cyberplag/cyberplagstudent.html>. The rules and policies regarding academic integrity should be reviewed by every student, and can be found online at: www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/47-00.html#49-20, and in the College of Communications document, "Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures." Any student with a question about academic integrity or plagiarism is strongly encouraged to discuss it with his or her instructor.

Note to Students With Disabilities: Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic

adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services, ODS located in room 116 Boucke Building at 814-863-1807(V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit their web site at www.equity.psu.edu/ods/. Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for reasonable academic adjustments.