The University of Western Ontario
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

LIS 9130/9811: Information Policy

Graduate Course Outline
Winter Term 2022

1. Course Information

Time & Place: Thursdays, 9:00 – 11:50 am; FNB 2230
Office Hours: TBD
Telephone: (519) 661-2111 x 85616
Email: apyati@uwo.ca

2. Instructor Information

Dr. Ajit Pyati
Associate Professor
Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)
FIMS website: http://www.fims.uwo.ca/people/profiles/ajit_pyati.html

3. Course Description

The course introduces information policy concepts and issues with which practitioners need to be familiar. The course will consider information policy; the policy process and players; individual policies which influence information creation and access in Canada; and the role of librarians in policy development.

Course Objectives (MLIS Learning Outcomes in parentheses)

1. Expand student awareness of macro-level (i.e. governmental and intergovernmental) policy making and how policy outcomes ultimately affect local and institutional information policy (Learning Outcomes 1, 2 & 5);
2. Promote awareness of the role of information policy as a driver of library policy (Learning Outcome 5);
3. Increase student awareness of the role of the library and information community as stakeholders in the policy process (Learning Outcome 5);
4. Provide students an opportunity to explore particular policy areas in depth (Learning Outcomes 2 & 3);
5. Provide strategies for policy analysis and writing/presenting professional policy briefs (Learning Outcomes 2 & 9); 6. Encourage students to become involved as professional leaders in local, provincial, national and international information developments (Learning Outcomes 1, 3, 5 & 9).

4. Course Topics and Readings

Please note that all the course readings are available on the course website and/or via Western Libraries. It is the responsibility of students to make their own copies of readings. Details about the readings will be on the final course syllabus, which students will receive on the first day of class (January 6, 2022).

Topics covered in this class include (but are not limited to):

intellectual property; intellectual freedom; privacy and surveillance; internet policy; social media regulation; big data; critical approaches to policy analysis; AI and information policy; etc.

- Weeks 1 to 4 (Jan 6 to 27): Introduction to Information Policy; Approaches to Policy Analysis; Critical Approaches to Information Policy; Intellectual Property
- Weeks 5 to 8 (Feb 3 to 17): Intellectual Freedom; Privacy; Big Data
- Weeks 9 to 12 (March 3 to 24): Internet Policy; International Information Policy; AI and Information Policy; Information Policy in Information Institutions
- Week 13 & 14 (March 31 & April 7): Final Policy Brief Presentations

5. Methods of Evaluation

MLIS Grade Guidelines and Late Assignments
The MLIS Student Handbook contains criteria used to grade assignments: https://intranet.fims.uwo.ca/graduate/academic_programs/mlis/mlis_grading.html. Late assignments will be penalized at 5% per day, unless appropriate documentation was provided. Assignments that are more than five days late will not be accepted.

Course Requirements
To complete this course you must attend all classes, read the required readings, and do the following assignments:
Policy Responses – (3 required, 10% each; due Jan 13, Feb 3, and Feb 24) = 30%
Online Posts (2 required, 5% each) = 10%
Policy Brief Outline (due March 10) = 5%
Participation = 10%
Policy Brief Presentation (date TBD) = 20%
Final Policy Brief (due April 7) = 25%
Total: **100%**

For PhD students, the following grading scheme is in place:
Policy Responses (2 required, 10% each; due Jan 13 and another flex date) = 20%
Participation = 10%
Additional Reading Write-Ups = 20%
Oral Presentation of Final Paper = 10%
Final Paper Outline = 5%
Final Paper = 35%
Total: **100%**

6. Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

7. **Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

8. **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both **AEW** and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.