



The University of Texas at Austin

Master of Science in Information Security and Privacy

School of Information and Center for Identity

## ISP 382: Public Policy, Information Security, and Privacy

**Instructor: Michael Wyatt**

Office Hours: Thursdays from 6:00pm – 6:50pm or by appointment

Communication preference: [msw2944@eid.utexas.edu](mailto:mw2944@eid.utexas.edu)

### Course Textbooks:

Required:

- Wheelan, Charles (2011). [Introduction to Public Policy Illustrated Edition](#). ISBN-13: 978-039392665
- Bardach, Eugene S., Patashnik, Eric M. (2019). [A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving 6th Edition](#). ISBN-13: 978-1506368887
- Falcon Doss, April (2020). [Cyber Privacy: Who Has Your Data and Why You Should Care](#). ISBN-13: 978-1948836920
- Espinosa, Christian (2021). [The Smartest Person in the Room: The Root Cause and New Solution for Cybersecurity](#). ISBN-13: 978-1544516219

Recommended:

- Furlong, Scott R., Kraft, Michael E. (2021). [Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition](#). ISBN-13: 978-1544374611
- Benson, Larry and Benson, Alana (2018). [Data Personified: How Fraud is Changing the Meaning of Identity](#). ISBN-13: 978-1480865396

Optional:

- Schneier, Bruce (2004). [Secrets and Lies: Digital Security in a Networked World](#). ISBN-13: 978-0471453802

*Additional reading will be assigned via Canvas*



**Course Meeting Dates and Times:**

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
Jan 13 - Fri	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Course Introduction. Introduction to public policy	(Wheelan) Chapters 1-6	½ page writeup outlining what you want to get out of this course and your educational and professional background. <i>DUE Jan 10<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm</i>
Jan 14 - Sat	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Individual behavior, group behavior, social welfare and public policy impact. The political process and the role of government		Two-page analysis of the role of public policy in the context of Information Security and Privacy <i>DUE Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm</i>
Feb 10 – Fri	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	The role of institutions and policy design. State vs. Federal public policy.	(Wheelan) Chapters 7-9, 14-15 (Bardach) PART 1	
Feb 11 – Sat	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	The Eightfold Path for policy analysis. Defining the problem - Assembling evidence in policy analysis.		Two-page analysis of privacy policy assigned in Canvas. <i>DUE Feb 27<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm</i>
Mar 3 – Fri	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Potential policy design challenges. Cybersecurity and public policy. Cybersecurity considerations for business.	(Espinosa) Intro & Chapters 1-5	
Mar 4 – Sat	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	National cybersecurity policies and impacts.		<b>Project 1. Policy analysis. No more six (6) pages in length. Individual assignment.</b> <i>DUE April 27<sup>rd</sup> 11:59pm</i>
Mar 31 – Fri	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	What constitutes Confidential Information (e.g., trade secrets, business plans, personally identifiable information, health information). How should confidential information be handled? Public policies and legislation affecting confidential information privacy.	(Espinosa) Chapters 6-10 (Falcon Doss) Sec I. – Sec III	
Apr 1 – Sat	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Algorithms and implications of surveillance with biometrics. The need to protect society vs. an individual’s right to privacy. Impact of the 2001 Patriot Act.		Two-page comprehension essay Topic assigned in Canvas. <i>DUE April 17<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm</i>



Apr 21 – Fri	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Discussion of privacy regulations around the world and the future of identity protection and privacy.	(Falcon Doss) Sec V. – Sec VI p.235 – p.300	
Apr 22 - Sat	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Course cumulative review discussion and student feedback.		<b>Project 2: Defining organizational public policy strategy. No more six (6) pages in length. Individual assignment.</b>  <b>Due April 27<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm</b>

NOTE: In addition to the defined topics above, guest lectures will be interwoven throughout the course and the summation submissions are expected to include discussion from those lectures.

NOTE: Changes to the Course Schedule may be made at my discretion and if circumstances require. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced (although I will do my best to ensure that you receive the changes with as much advanced notice as possible). Please check Canvas on a regular basis since all important class events and changes will be announced in class and posted to Canvas.

**Course Overview:**

This course will provide an overview of how information, information security, and privacy, relate to public policy at the state, federal and international level. Examines key information policy areas including protection of confidential information, privacy, surveillance, theft, health information, business-to-business relationships, and the co-evolution of personal data and information technologies. While this course has required, recommended, and optional reading, much of the course content will be covered during lectures with a number of guest speakers from a variety of backgrounds including public policy formulation, lobbyist, privacy, information security, and cybersecurity.

**Course Learning Goals:**

- ❖ Upon course completion, students will have:
  - An understanding about how Information-related public policy in the U.S. is developed at the state and federal level and how to effectively analyze public policy.
  - Knowledge of how businesses engage governmental affairs and lobbyists to champion their respective points of view on information security and privacy with legislators.
  - Knowledge of current information privacy regulatory frameworks both in the US and abroad.
  - An understanding of various types of confidential information and the public policies that impact how individuals and organizations gain access to, store, and destroy confidential information.
- ❖ In addition, students will have an improved ability to influence the public policy related to information in their roles as security and privacy professionals as well as private citizens.

**Beyond this Course:**

- ❖ This course is designed to provide students with a strong foundation on how public policy impacts information related to digital identity, information security, and privacy. Given the rapidly changing



technological, political, and regulatory landscape, students will be able to analyze policies to understand impact on business and personal as well as understand how to advocate for changes to policies.

## ***Grading policy:***

### **Course Evaluations**

- 10% Class participation
- 30% Two Page Topic Analysis (3 total)
- 30% Project 1
- 30% Project 2
- ❖ No final exam.

### **Attendance Requirements**

Given the importance of both classroom discussions related to the reading materials and guest lectures, it is critical that students attend all classes. If it is necessary to miss class, the instructor must be informed 48 hours prior to the scheduled class in order to determine if an accommodation will be granted. Unexcused absences will result in a 3-point deduction per academic day missed. Students that do miss class are expected to schedule time with the instructor during office hours.

### **Flexibility**

Each student will be able to drop the lowest grade in each of the following categories: monthly class summations and comprehension essays. This will give flexibility when something unexpected happens not covered by these policies and allow you to strategically use grade drops to balance your course workload and other commitments. Please let me know if you face difficulties this semester in accessing course resources or completing work.

Late Submissions: The expectation is that you will submit your work on time. If you must make a late submission, in order to receive partial credit you will need to submit the deliverable within 72 hours of the original due date. NOTE: a 25% deduction will be applied to the grade when a deliverable is submitted late but within 72hrs of due date. After 72 hour no credit will be received for the assignment.

## ***University of Texas and MSISP grading policies***

### **Grading**

Students must receive a grade of C or higher in each course to receive credit towards their degree. If a student earns anything less than a C, they will have to retake the course when it is offered again. Candidates for the master's degree must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 in core courses. Per University policy, any graduate student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.00 at the end of any semester will be placed on scholastic warning status, and must bring his or her cumulative GPA to at least 3.00 during the next semester, or be subject to dismissal from the program.

Official grade point averages are calculated by the registrar and appear on the student's academic record maintained by the registrar.



## ***Learning and Growth***

Throughout the course, your learning and growth in theory and practice of the engineering profession are important to me. We all need accommodations because we all learn differently, and the current pandemic makes accommodations all the more important. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we will develop strategies to meet your needs and course requirements. I also encourage you to reach out to the resources available through UT. Many are on this syllabus. I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

## ***Academic Integrity***

Each student is expected to abide by the UT Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." If you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in a previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise, you might be in violation of the university's academic integrity policies. Please see [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#).

Discussion of lectures is encouraged. Please submit your own independent class summations and projects unless otherwise directed. For project 1. and project 2., students work in teams of two, and each team would submit one report.

## ***Use of Electronics***

To help you connect the pieces of the class together, please focus the use of electronics on the content in lecture and laboratory.

## ***Video Recordings***

Video recording of class activities are reserved for students and TAs in this class only for educational purposes and are protected by [FERPA](#) laws if any students are identifiable in the video. Video recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Students violating this university policy could face misconduct proceedings.

## ***Students with Disabilities***

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) (SSD). Here are some [examples](#) of the types of diagnoses and conditions that can be considered disabilities: [Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders \(ADHD\)](#), [Autism](#), [Blind & Visually Impaired](#), [Brain Injuries](#), [Deaf & Hard of Hearing](#), [Learning Disabilities](#), [Medical Disabilities](#), [Physical Disabilities](#), [Psychological Disabilities](#) and [Temporary Disabilities](#). Please refer to SSD's [website](#) for contact and more information. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.



## ***Mental Health Counseling***

College can be stressful and sometimes we need a little help. Luckily, we have a wealth of resources and dedicated people ready to assist you, and treatment does work. The [Counseling and Mental Health Center](#) provides counseling, psychiatric, consultation, and prevention services that facilitate academic and life goals and enhance personal growth and well-being. Counselors are available Monday-Friday 8am-5pm by phone (512-471-3515) and Zoom.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis (e.g. depression or anxiety), please call the Mental Health Center Crisis line at 512-471-CALL(2255). Call even if you aren't sure you're in a full-blown crisis, but sincerely need help. Staff are there to help you.

## ***Student Rights and Responsibilities***

- You have a right to a learning environment that supports mental and physical wellness.
- You have a right to respect.
- You have a right to be assessed and graded fairly.
- You have a right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- You have a right to privacy and confidentiality.
- You have a right to meaningful and equal participation, to self-organize groups to improve your learning environment.
- You have a right to learn in an environment that is welcoming to all people. No student shall be isolated, excluded or diminished in any way.

With these rights come responsibilities:

- You are responsible for taking care of yourself, managing your time, and communicating with the teaching team and others if things start to feel out of control or overwhelming.
- You are responsible for acting in a way that is worthy of respect and always respectful of others.
- Your experience with this course is directly related to the quality of the energy that you bring to it, and your energy shapes the quality of your peers' experiences.
- You are responsible for creating an inclusive environment and for speaking up when someone is excluded.
- You are responsible for holding yourself accountable to these standards, holding each other to these standards, and holding the teaching team accountable as well.

## ***Official Correspondence***

UT Austin [considers e-mail as an official mode of university correspondence](#). You are responsible for following course-related information on the course Canvas site.

## ***Religious Holy Days***

In accordance with [section 51.911 of the Texas Education code](#) and [University policies on class attendance](#), a student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable accommodation



does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the [Office for Inclusion and Equity](#). The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

### ***Absence for Military Service***

In accordance with [section 51.9111 of the Texas Education code](#) and [University policies on class attendance](#), a student is excused from attending classes or engaging in other required activities, including exams, if he or she is called to active military service of a reasonably brief duration. The maximum time for which the student may be excused has been defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as "no more than 25 percent of the total number of class meetings or the contact hour equivalent (not including the final examination period) for the specific course or courses in which the student is currently enrolled at the beginning of the period of active military service." The student will be allowed a reasonable time after the absence to complete assignments and take exams.

### ***COVID-19 Guidance***

To help preserve our in-person learning environment, the university recommends the following.

- Adhere to university [mask guidance](#).
- [Vaccinations are widely available](#), free and not billed to health insurance. The vaccine will help protect against the transmission of the virus to others and reduce serious symptoms in those who are vaccinated.
- [Proactive Community Testing](#) remains an important part of the university's efforts to protect our community. Tests are fast and free.
- Visit [Protect Texas Together](#) for more information

### ***Safety Information (<http://www.utexas.edu/safety>)***

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of students, TAs, Professors, or others, call the Behavioral Concerns Advice Line at 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

Occupants of buildings are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. The nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, UT Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services.
- [Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures](#).



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### *Sanger Learning Center*

The Sanger Learning Center can improve student academic performance. All students are welcome to join The Sanger Learning Center classes and workshops and make appointments for their private learning specialists, peer academic coaches, and tutors. For more information, see the [Sanger Web site](#) or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

### *Title IX Reporting*

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms where all students, faculty, and staff can learn, work, and thrive. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator at UT Austin. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email [advocate@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:advocate@austin.utexas.edu). For more info about reporting options and resources, visit [the campus resources page](#) or e-mail the Title IX Office at [titleix@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:titleix@austin.utexas.edu).

### *Campus Carry*

"The University of Texas at Austin is committed to providing a safe environment for students, employees, university affiliates, and visitors, and to respecting the right of individuals who are licensed to carry a handgun as permitted by Texas state law." [More information](#).