

Privacy Law

Spring 2010



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Course Description: This course examines the legal doctrines of privacy and confidentiality used to protect personal information. The aim of the course is to understand how courts and legislatures seek to protect information as new technologies, new security threats and new institutional practices emerge. The course examines the philosophical roots of the concepts of privacy and confidentiality, and traces the development in US law of the protection of an individual's right to control his or her personal information held by others. The course will review developments in Constitutional Law, Tort Law, and Statutory Law, with a strong emphasis on the post 9-11 and Patriot Act era. The class will examine case studies of landmark privacy legislation to understand how expectations of privacy and confidentiality are translated into legal frameworks. The course spends a considerable amount of time studying the scope and implications of federal statutes that attempt to establish fair information practices with respect to electronic personal information.

Contact: You will need to contact me ASAP at the above email address to receive a username and password. You can use these to access our course materials posted on our website: www.cheesmanlaw.com.

Copyright: The course book is copyrighted. Please do not make illegal copies. Such an act would constitute an honor violation and will result in the maximum punishment allowed by the school.

Textbook: I have tried to ensure that all pages I plan to assign contain no errors. If I assign a page or pages which you find contain errors, let me know and I will provide you with corrected pages via mail or email.

Double Enrollment: You may enroll in only one online course per semester unless you have received written permission from the Dean. If you are enrolled in more than one online course, you must contact the Registrar ASAP.

Grading: Your grade for this class will consist of a final exam and will be strongly affected by class participation which will take the form of participation in our Westlaw forum and homework assignments.

Readings: Required readings will come from your textbook. Recommended and supplemental readings will be available through our website. As these resources are primarily links to websites I do not maintain, if you should find that any of the links no longer functions, please contact me.

Technology Issues: All students are required to have an email account that allows you to send and receive attachments. You need to provide me with your email address by the first week of

class (please see above for my email address). I will then provide you with access information for our class webpage. There you will be able to access updated syllabi, audio files of class lectures, and additional reference materials. Note: this course requires extensive use of the Internet. A background in the use of computer technology and the Internet is strongly encouraged. The technological requirements of accessing and using our website or the sites we link to are your responsibility as young professionals.

Help: I do not maintain office hours on campus. However, if you ever have questions, issues or comments, you can always email me. In most cases, I will respond to your email within 24-48 hours.

Meetings: While this class does not physically meet, you are responsible for (1) listening to lectures; (2) completing readings and (3) submitting your answers online by noon on the date specified.

Academic Honesty: You are responsible for listening to all classes and reading all assigned materials. In addition, you will find weekly assignments on our website from time to time. You are expected to do all of your own work and to cite you borrow from other sources.

Disclaimer: Policies and procedures are subject to change. This syllabus is subject to change. Updated versions of the syllabus will be available on our website.

Lectures and Podcasts: all lectures will be in the form of audio files that may be streamed and/or downloaded. Additionally, for some subjects, I will be using podcasts from other lecturers.

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. All materials will be available online.

Grading: Your grade for this class will consist of assignments (worth 30% of your grade) and a final exam (worth 70%).

Final Exam: The final exam will be conducted online and will be open-book.