Syllabus

TM612WS – Regulation and Policy in the Telecommunications Industry
Spring 2014 Semester
Prof. Tom Brantle

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Course Description: This course surveys the basic principles underpinning US and international telecommunications policies, regulations and laws. In particular, we will examine the legal and regulatory treatment of a number of related technologies—from telephony to cable to the Internet—whose convergence will continue to challenge established principles. The course will focus most intently on administrative policies as well as statutory and regulatory laws, paying special attention to the design and implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In addition, the course will address the role played by antitrust, intellectual property and constitutional law in shaping our nation’s telecommunications landscape. Finally, the course will consider the important role played by state and federal agencies—antitrust enforcers, state public utility commissions and the Federal Communications Commission—in developing and administering our nation’s telecommunications laws, regulations and policies.

Topics discussed include: historical perspective of telecommunications as a regulated industry, effects of regulation on industry growth in pre- and post-divestiture environments; special case of divestiture of AT&T; government regulatory agencies and processes; management issues related to business between regulated and non-regulated corporations; tariff structures, rules and rate making in the regulated environment; mergers and acquisitions in the telecommunications industry; issues, policies and regulations across the Internet, broadband and wireless technologies; issues of privatization and deregulation in international telecommunications and their effects on global companies are also studied.

Course objectives include: to establish a framework for analysis and interpretation of governmental policies on telecommunications at the local, state, national, and international levels; to review the history of government policies toward telecommunications and assess policy trends in regulation and deregulation; to discuss current policy issues in telecommunications and develop an understanding for formulating and evaluating strategies for businesses involved in telecommunications.
Textbooks:


Course Notes and Assessments/Assignments: Available and posted on eLearn/WebCT.

Evaluation:

- Homework Discussion 10%
- Team HW Case Studies 15%
- Project – Term Paper/Presentation 15%
- Midterm Exam 30%
- Final Exam 30%

Grading:

- $95 \leq A \leq 100$
- $90 \leq A- < 95$
- $87 \leq B+ < 90$
- $83 \leq B < 87$
- $80 \leq B- < 83$
- Etc.

General Comments: All work is to be independent, although you can reference your notes and textbooks; you should not work with other students on the midterm exam and the final exam; however class discussion is clearly encouraged for the weekly class and homework discussion as well as full team participation on the case studies. All late submissions will receive a 10% grade reduction per day. No credit for submissions past one week deadline.

Professor Thomas F. Brantle

Tom Brantle is an Affiliate Professor in the Telecommunications and Project Management Program at Stevens. Tom Brantle’s telecommunications industry experience spans 18 years; 13 years with Bell Communications Research (Bellcore, now known as Telcordia Technologies) as a Sr. Systems Engineer and Project Manager across Bellcore’s Technology Systems, Professional Services and Software Systems Divisions, and 5 years as a Sr. Product and Account Manager in Lucent Technologies Communications Software and Worldwide Sales Global Account Management Divisions, respectively. While at Bellcore he authored numerous telecommunications industry standards documents (Generic Requirements (GRs), Technical References (TRs) and Technical Advisories (TAs)) published in the public domain.

He received his Ph.D. and an M.S.M. in Technology Management from Stevens, an M.A. in Statistics and Operations Research from the Pennsylvania State University, an M.S. in Computer Science and Statistics from the University of Rhode Island, and a B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science from S.U.N.Y. at Cortland.

Additionally he holds the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI).
Ethical Conduct: The following statement is printed in the Stevens Graduate Catalog and applies to all students taking Stevens courses, on and off campus.

"Cheating during in-class tests or take-home examinations or homework is, of course, illegal and immoral. A Graduate Academic Evaluation Board exists to investigate academic improprieties, conduct hearings, and determine any necessary actions. The term ‘academic impropriety’ is meant to include, but is not limited to, cheating on homework, during in-class or take home examinations and plagiarism."

Consequences of academic impropriety are severe, ranging from receiving an “F” in a course, to a warning from the Dean of the Graduate School, which becomes a part of the permanent student record, to expulsion.

Reference: The Graduate School Catalog, Stevens Institute of Technology.

Consistent with the above statements, all homework exercises, tests and exams that are designated as individual assignments MUST contain the following signed statement before they can be accepted for grading.

______________________________________________
I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination. I further pledge that I have not copied any material from a book, article, the Internet or any other source except where I have expressly cited the source.

Signature _________________________ Date: _____________

Please note that assignments in this class may be submitted to www.turnitin.com, a web-based anti-plagiarism system, for an evaluation of their originality.

Course/Teacher Evaluation: Continuous improvement can only occur with feedback based on comprehensive and appropriate surveys. Your feedback is an important contributor to decisions to modify course content/pedagogy which is why we strive for 100% class participation in the survey.

All course teacher evaluations are conducted on-line. You will receive an e-mail one week prior to the end of the course informing you that the survey site (https://www.stevens.edu/assess) is open along with instructions for accessing the site. Login using your Campus Pipeline (email) 'CPIPE' username and password. This is the same username and password you use for WebCT. Simply click on the course that you wish to evaluate and enter the information. All responses are strictly anonymous. We especially encourage you to clarify your position on any of the questions and give explicit feedbacks on your overall evaluations in the section at the end of the formal survey which allows for written comments. We ask that you submit your survey prior to the last class.
# Schedule

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*Subject to revision as necessary and appropriate.*