

Topics in Communications Policy

Syllabus

This course will address current topics in Communications Policy. The focus on the course will be to apply analytic methods to address certain issues that are currently being debated in the policy arena. Each topic will be examined from an interdisciplinary perspective, in particular the implications and limitations on policy decisions because of the legal framework, technology and economics and political concerns will be assessed.

Broadband Policy

Legal framework

International Comparisons with the US

Policy Debates

Bundling and Tying

Open Access and Net Neutrality

Multi Channel Video Delivery

Legal Framework

Structure of the Industry

Bundling: ala Carte Cable Pricing

Open Access: Vertical Integration and Foreclosure

Wireless Communications

Spectrum Allocation Issues

Commons Models versus Property Rights Models

Municipal WiFi

The Digital Transition.

Assignments and grading

1) Students must sign up to make a short presentation and lead a discussion in one of the 7 classes focused on an industry (weeks 3-9). They will identify a few additional readings for the class, to support their presentations. Possible topics include:

- . case study raised by one of the topics that we are studying
- . analysis of a salient economic issue in the sector
- . a look at similarities and differences between the US and another country/region in this industry

2) A research paper, to be presented in class during one of the last 5 weeks of the semester, due at the end of the semester. The research topics will be determined and defined through consultations with the instructor.

□Timeline:

- . by week 4: submit a 1-paragraph description of the topic
- . by week 9 (before spring break): submit a 2-page synopsis
- . paper presentations to be scheduled during weeks 10-14
- . final paper due during finals week

Grading

Presentation: 20% □ Participation: 20% □ Project: 60%

Required readings

. Books:

- . Alexander, A., J. Owers and R. Carveth (1998) *Media Economics: Theory and Practice*, Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, ISBN [0805845801](#)
- . Shapiro, C. & Varian, H. (1998). *Information rules: A strategic guide to the network economy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Business School Publishing □ ISBN :[087584863X](#).

. On-line readings: pointers included in the syllabus

Keep up with the Communication Industries business news. A minimal way to do that is to read the Monday business section of *The New York Times*: . These articles are available on the *CyberTimes* site at <http://www.nytimes.com/yr/mo/day/cyber/> .