**INFO 6113 / LAW 7113**

**TECH/LAW COLLOQUIUM**

Department of Information Science, Cornell University / Cornell Law School

Fall 2017

Tues 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Gates Hall G01 (public lecture) and Gates 310 (seminar)

*[syllabus version: 28 August 2017]*

Prof. Karen Levy

Gates Hall 207

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Office hours: Mondays 9:00-11:00, or by appointment

Course website: http://infosci.cornell.edu/techlaw-colloquium

**OVERVIEW and GOALS**

This course explores new developments at the intersection of law and information technology. The class is structured as a series of dialogues with a diverse group of scholars – professors, practitioners, journalists, and others -- investigating how law and new technologies interact with and shape one another across many different domains. Students will be exposed to innovative research about technology policy, privacy, platforms, design, law enforcement, the nature of expertise, and the changing nature of legal and technical practice.

**COURSE FORMAT**

The class will include both a public lecture component and a smaller seminar discussion. The public lecture will take place in Gates G01; following a break, the seminar discussion will take place in Gates 310. **You are required to attend and actively participate in both class components.** In some cases, the seminar discussion will be an in-depth continuation of the topics from the public lecture; in others, the seminar discussion will be an opportunity to workshop the guest lecturer’s related work.

*Logistical note:* on occasion, we may need to hold the class in lecture halls other than Gates G01 because of university conflicts. I will be sure to notify you ahead of time should this come up. If you don’t hear otherwise, assume we’re meeting in Gates!

During each week, the guest lecturer has the option of assigning background reading for the seminar. I’ll circulate this to you by email in advance if applicable.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

No course materials are required. Papers to be workshopped will be emailed to you before the course meeting.

**ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING**

There are three graded components of the course, each constituting one-third of your course grade.

* **Attendance and participation.** Attendance in this course (both lecture and seminar) is **mandatory**. Because the course content is entirely delivered by the guest lecturers, there is no substitute for attending and actively participating in the class. You should plan to attend every session! I will keep track of this using a sign-up sheet in the seminar.

Further, you must participate actively. Your goal should be to ask a question of the guest lecturer in either the lecture or seminar **every** week. This is not a pedantic exercise; being prepared to ask questions is, I believe, the best way to engage with an argument. (For some thoughts on why and how to formulate good questions, see our colleague Dan Cosley’s blog post: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/danco/2013/02/18/on-asking-questions-and-academic-love/)>

On occasion, unforeseen events come up and you may have an unavoidable class conflict. Should this occur, the makeup policy is as follows: (a) you should let me know in advance, if at all possible; (b) you will need to complete a makeup assignment, consisting of reading a paper by the guest lecturer and writing a 2-page critical assessment of that paper. You should get in touch with me to select a suitable paper to read and critique, and to devise a due date for the makeup assignment.

* **Two critical responses.** Twice during the semester, you will need to submit a 1-page (single-spaced) critical response to one of the guest lectures and/or seminars. This response **must be emailed to me before the next week’s meeting**. Please do not mistake “critical” in this context for “negative”; the point is to be analytic, creative, and reasoned, regardless of whether you love or hate something.

You must write one critical response in the first half of the class (before fall break) and one in the second half (after fall break).

* **Synthetic analysis.** At the conclusion of the course, you will need to submit a 3-page (single-spaced) synthetic analysis relating the topics covered in the course to your own research and/or practice. We will discuss this assignment in more detail as the course progresses. The synthetic analysis is due by **midnight on December 8.**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are expected to observe Cornell’s Code of Academic Integrity in all aspects of this course. The code states that:

Absolute integrity is expected of every Cornell student in all academic undertakings. ... Academic integrity is expected not only in formal coursework situations, but in all University relationships and interactions connected to the educational process, including the use of University resources. ... A Cornell student's submission of work for academic credit indicates that the work is the student's own. All outside assistance should be acknowledged, and the student's academic position truthfully reported at all times. In addition, Cornell students have a right to expect academic integrity from each of their peers.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**(subject to change)**

August 22 NO CLASS

August 29 Introduction and overview (GATES 310)

[no guest]

September 5 “Uncovering Commercial Surveillance on the Web”

Arvind Narayanan

Computer Science, Princeton University

September 12 “The Undue Influence of Surveillance Technology Companies on Policing”

Elizabeth Joh

Law, University of California-Davis

September 19 “Privacy’s Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies”

Woodrow Hartzog

Law, Northeastern University

September 26 “The Deterrent Effects of DNA Databases: Evidence from the US and Denmark”

Jennifer Doleac

Public Policy/Economics, University of Virginia

October 3 “Regulating Inscrutable Systems”

Solon Barocas

Information Science, Cornell

**\*\*\* one response must be submitted by email by October 6 at midnight \*\*\***

October 10 [fall break]

October 17 NO CLASS

October 24 “The Structure and Interpretation of Legal Programs”

James Grimmelmann

Law, Cornell Tech

October 31 “A Doctrine of Public Cybersecurity”

Fred Schneider

Computer Science, Cornell

November 7 “Hiring by Algorithm”

Ifeoma Ajunwa

Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell

November 14 “Procurement as Policymaking: Policing Administration in an Era of Intelligent Systems”

Deirdre Mulligan

Information/Law, University of California—Berkeley

November 21 NO CLASS

November 28 “Technological Interventions in the Refugee/Migration Crisis”

Mark Latonero

Data & Society Research Institute/

Communication, University of Southern California

**\*\*\* one response must be submitted by email by December 1, midnight \*\*\***

**\*\*\* synthetic analysis must be submitted by email by December 8, midnight \*\*\***