Syllabus: Privacy Technology, Policy, & Law

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: CS6726, MGMT4726, MGMT6726, PubP4726, PubP6726
Course Name: Privacy Technology, Policy & Law (3 credits)
Semester: Fall, 2026;
Instructor: Swire, Peter, swire@gatech.edu

Course Description

There is a great need for qualified privacy professionals in industry and government. One need look no further than the number of data breaches facing industry and government institutions. The privacy field is maturing as evidenced by the fact that there are over 80,000 members of the **International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)**. The IAPP certification requires an understanding of technology, law, and policy; this course exposes students to the complex interplay of these areas. This course will guide students in acquiring the skills needed to effectively and ethically design privacy into software systems while integrating with business practices across an enterprise in various contexts. It will introduce privacy policy, ethics, and legal topics suitable for business, computing, engineering, and public policy students. There is a great need for students to have a course that enables them to acquire the practical hands-on skills necessary to be a successful privacy professional, while also acquiring the basic grounding required for more advanced research in areas such as software engineering. This course is expected to increase the practical and research skills of students specializing in business, computing, international affairs, and public policy. There is no prerequisite for this course.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course will enable students to understand how privacy is defined, protected, and managed in the areas of technology, business, policy, and law. Specific objectives include:

1. Examining the state-of-the-art research and practice in information privacy, including methods, tools, notations and processes used in information systems;
2. Understanding the legal, ethical, and policy issues surrounding technologies that operate on sensitive information;
3. Developing the multidisciplinary skills needed to analyze, manage, and resolve the challenges associated with privacy, technology, law, and policy;
4. Gaining a basic grounding for future technical research in privacy via the examination of current research issues and problems; and,

5. Gaining experience in handling real-world privacy challenges through analysis of software and business artifacts using written and oral communication.

Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required. Materials will be available online or through Canvas.

Grading Policy

Final grades in the course will be determined as follows:

Videos on Reading	6%
Class Participation	10%
Team Evaluations	4%
Project 1	25%
Project 2	20%
Project 3	25%
Project 4	10%

The grading scale for your final grade will be as follows:

A: 90 ≤ Final Grade ≤ 100
B: 80 ≤ Final Grade < 90
C: 70 ≤ Final Grade < 80
D: 60 ≤ Final Grade < 70
F: Final Grade < 60

Pass/fail is not an option for this course, because of group assignments on Projects 2, 3, and 4.

Description of Graded Components

Videos on reading: to keep current with reading, each student will submit several short videos.

Class participation: Students will be assigned to one of three or four "on call" groups. For the week the student's group is "on call", the professor can call on the student and expect the student to be prepared. When on call, students will also post a privacy-related news article to Canvas.

Project 1: An individually-written project, on a topic related to policy or law.
Project 2: A team project, including drafting a Privacy Impact Assessment.
Project 3: a team project, on a timely privacy issue not covered by Projects 1 or 2.
Project 4: a team project, reporting to the class on Project 3 and other topics.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be monitored by our team of teaching assistants after the first week of class when students are still dropping and adding courses. For subsequent weeks, you may miss up to one class session (the equivalent of a week of class) without an excuse.

Each unexcused absence, beyond the first, will result in a 5-point (5%) reduction in your final grade for EACH unexcused absence outside of the 1 free miss.

Academic and Research Honesty/Integrity Statement

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards.

Review the Student Code of Conduct, and the Academic Honor Code, including where applicable the Graduate Addendum to the Academic Honor Code.

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs. Contact the Office of Student Disabilities.

Extensions and Late Assignments

Each project deliverable will be due on an assigned date and time. Late project deliverables will be docked ten points (one letter grade) per 24 hours after it is due, beginning one minute after the assignment is due. Thus, if an assignment is due at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, but submitted on Thursday before 10 a.m., the highest grade possible on that deliverable is a 90, etc.

Extensions are available on an individual basis only with approval by the instructor prior to the time of submission.