

Syllabus: Privacy for Professionals

Course Information

Course Prefix and Number: MGT 6727

Course Name: Privacy for Professionals (3 credits)

Semester: Summer 2026

Instructors: DeBrae Kennedy-Mayo, dkennedy3@gatech.edu & Peter Swire, pswire3@gatech.edu

Course Description

This course takes a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of privacy—a current topic of great international interest for those in technology, policy, law, and/or business. It prepares students to work professionally in the privacy field, with an emphasis on U.S.-based law and practice. In this course, the broad concept of privacy, the regulation of privacy and cybersecurity, as well as the interconnectedness of privacy, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence (AI) will be explored.

Course topics include introduction to privacy, introduction to the U.S. legal framework, federal and state regulators and enforcement of privacy law, state comprehensive privacy laws, state data breach notification laws, medical privacy, financial privacy, education privacy, workplace privacy, privacy issues in civil litigation and government investigations, introduction to European Union privacy laws, principles of information management and privacy risk management, technological aspects of privacy, and emerging issues.

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. By the end of the class, you will be able to:

1. Identify the major federal and state statutes and analyze how these laws affect different sectors of the U.S. economy;
2. Examine how technical decisions are critical for ensuring privacy requirements are implemented; and
3. Discuss the interaction of legal and technical requirements for ensuring privacy.

In addition, the assigned reading is the official textbook for the Certified Information Privacy Professional – U.S. examination, offered by the International Association of Privacy Professionals. Successful completion of this course should be excellent preparation for that examination. (IAPP administers the certification exam, which is offered by the organization for a fee.) To learn more about the certification exam, visit the IAPP’s website at <https://iapp.org/certify/cippus/>.

Required Course Materials

This class has a required textbook: *U.S. Private-Sector Privacy: Law and Practice for Information Privacy Professionals* (4th ed. 2024) by Peter Swire & DeBrae Kennedy-Mayo. Additional materials will be made available online or through Canvas.

Grading Policy

Final grades in the course will be determined as follows:

Assignment	Weight of Overall Grade
Total of 14 “Ripped from the Headlines” Essays	30%
Mid-Term Examination	30%
Final Examination	40%

The grading scale for the student’s overall final grade in the class will be as follows:

- A $90 \leq \text{Final Grade} \leq 100$
- B $80 \leq \text{Final Grade} < 90$
- C $70 \leq \text{Final Grade} < 80$
- D $60 \leq \text{Final Grade} < 70$
- F Final Grade < 60

The [Georgia Tech Policy on Pass/Fail Grading](#) states that students are responsible for learning from their major school whether it is permissible to take a class in their program for pass/fail credit. For students who are eligible for pass/fail grading for this class, the scale for the student’s overall final grade will be as follows:

- S $70 \leq \text{Final Grade} \leq 100$
- U Final Grade < 70

Description of Graded Components

“Ripped from the Headline” Essays: Students individually write a short essay for each module describing an online news article related to the subject matter in the module. Students are permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) to assist with these essays so long as they follow course guidelines for taking responsibility for each essay they submit.

Mid-Term Examination: The Mid-Term Examination tests the assigned reading and assigned videos covered in the course prior to the date of the Mid-Term Examination. Each student must complete the Mid-Term Examination individually, without the use of books or notes, and without the use of GenAI.

Final Examination: The Final Examination tests primarily the subject areas covered since the Mid-Term Examination; however, a few questions (no more than 20% of the total credit for the Final Examination) may be drawn from material covered earlier in the course. Each student must complete the Final Examination individually, without the use of books or notes, and without the use of GenAI.

Use of University-Approved Proctoring Software for Examinations

As this course is designed to be taught online, each student must utilize Honorlock, the university-approved proctoring software, for examinations unless an approved accommodation is in place. Honorlock includes an authentication process, where the student takes a picture, shows their ID, and completes a scan of the room where they will sit for the examination. During the examination, Honorlock records the exam session through the student’s webcam and microphone as well as records the student’s screen.

Honorlock support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. If a student encounters an issue, they may contact Honorlock through live chat on the [support page](#) or within the exam itself. Honorlock also provides a [student tutorial](#).

Attendance Policy

There is no attendance policy in this online class. The course material is available in an asynchronous format. (The class has deadlines related to the “Ripped from the Headline” Essays, the Mid-Term Examination, and the Final Examination. These deadlines are discussed in detail in Canvas.)

Extensions and Late Assignments

Each “Ripped from the Headline” essay is due on an assigned date and time. Late essays will be docked one (1) point out of a possible ten (10) points if submitted up to one week after the essay is due.

Extensions are available on an individual basis only with approval by the instructor prior to the due date for the graded assignment, or in the case of an unexpected life event such as illness or injury as soon as reasonably possible (but no later than one week after the due date for the graded assignment). Such approval is within the sole discretion of the instructor.

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss these special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail the instructor as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

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](#).

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that students can have of instructors and that instructors have of students.