Governance (GOVN) 377

Issues in Access to Information and Privacy Protection (Revision 2)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** ⬈ for the current revision ⊗
Delivery mode:	**Individualized study online** ⬈
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Social Science
Prerequisites:	None; however, a previous course in social science is recommended. This is a senior course and as such students are expected to have advanced analytical and writing skills.
Precluded:	GOVN 377 is a cross-listed course—a course listed under 3 different disciplines—with **LGST 377** ⬈ and **CRJS 377**. GOVN 677 is a precluded course. GOVN 377 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for LGST 377, CRJS 377 or GOVN 677.
Challenge:	GOVN 377 has a challenge for credit option.
Faculty:	**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** ⬈

| **Notes:** | The textbook for the course, *Controlling Knowledge: Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection in a Networked World* is available for **free download** [↗] from AUPress. |

Overview

The proliferation of the internet and other new technologies has had a seismic impact on our ability to create, collect, store, and share information. These new communication technologies promise great benefits for the transparency associated with good governance, but also conjure up images of a society where individual privacy is non-existent, replaced by the all-knowing, all-seeing "big brother" in either its corporate or governmental versions.

GOVN 377: Issues in Access to Information and Privacy Protection explores how society grapples with the issues surrounding information access and protection of privacy. It overviews a range of access and privacy debates, including the place of surveillance, anti-terrorism measures, social networking, data harvesting, algorithms in risk management, and the sharing of health information in a free and democratic society.

A shortened summary of some of the concerns raised in this course might look like: Internet + biometrics + data mining + RFID technologies = corporate/government "big brother" or Internet + Freedom of Information (FOI) + social networking = transparency and good governance?

Concerns about information access and privacy protection have given rise worldwide to Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection legislation. The course reviews how this legislation can protect and promote societal transparency and privacy, in addition to its conceptual basis.

Outline

The course consists of the following eight units.

- Unit 1: Information Access and Privacy in a Networked World

- Unit 2: Information Privacy: Legislation, Policy and Personal Autonomy

- Unit 3: Information Access: Freedom of Information and Democracy

- Unit 4: Privacy and Access to Information in the Health Sector

- Unit 5: Public Safety, National Security and Surveillance

- Unit 6: New Technologies: Data Mining, Matching, and Management

- Unit 7: Research: The Implications for Access and Privacy

- Unit 8: The Brave New World of Data Management and Manipulation

Evaluation

To **receive credit** ⬈ for GOVN 377, you must complete all of the assignments, achieve a mark of at least 50 per cent on the final examination, and obtain a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** ⤓. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Online Quiz	10%
Persuasive Essay	20%
Research Paper Proposal (Outline and Bibliography)	10%
Research paper	25%

Activity	Weight
Final Exam	35%
Total	**100%**

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** ⬀ section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** ⬀ .

Materials

Lorna Stefanick. *Controlling Knowledge: Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection in a Networked World.* Athabasca University Press, 2011. (PDF) 🖼 (Online)

Other materials

All other materials are available online.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** ⤴ can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** ⤴ for the GOVN 377 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** 🗎 on the examination, and an overall grade of at least D (50 percent).

Activity	Weight
Online Quiz	15%
Persuasive Essay	25%
Research paper	20%
Exam	50%
Total	**100%**

🗎 **Challenge for credit course registration form**

Important links

> **Academic advising** ⤴

> **Program planning** ⤴

> **Request assistance** ⤴

> **Support services** ⤴

Opened in Revision 2, April 9, 2019

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View **previous revision** ⬈