

George Mason University
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Criminology, Law, and Society

CRIM 460 – Spring 2024

Surveillance and Privacy in Contemporary Society

Course Syllabus

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Class Schedule

Monday 1:30pm-4:10pm East Building 122

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

Course Learning Objectives

The goals of this course are to develop an understanding of surveillance and privacy and the laws that regulate it. Surveillance and privacy are issues that are part of our everyday life, whether through our uses of phones or the internet and computers, or cameras, or our day to day travels through our streets. The use of the laws that regulate our rights of privacy are important in all areas of law enforcement and law itself. An understanding of Constitutional laws, and Supreme Court decisions relating to privacy and surveillance will be developed, as well as the use of those laws in law enforcement activities.

Reading Material

Privacy, Law Enforcement, and National Security by Daniel J. Solove and Paul M. Schwartz. 3rd Edition, Wolters Kluwer 2021 ISBN: 9781543832617. Older editions are available, and can be used. This is required reading.

Course Policies

Electronics:

As long as the electronic devices are quiet, and are being used to benefit the discussion, or for note-taking, you're welcome to use them.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Should you need accommodations due to a disability or another reason, please consult the Office of Disability Services at (703) 993-2474 or ods.gmu.edu, and/or inform me.

George Mason University has an **Honor Code**, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. The Honor Code defines plagiarism as:

1. Presenting as one's own the words, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgment.
2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment.

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity (oai.gmu.edu).

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class.

Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. (Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website at <https://registrar.gmu.edu>)

Last Day to Add is January 10, 2022

Last Day to Drop with 100% tuition refund is January 18, 2022

Last Day to Drop with 50% tuition refund is January 25, 2022

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.

Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

Grading:

Grades will be determined based on three components:

Research Papers (30%): Papers will be assigned throughout the course. These papers will be relatively short and primarily be based on internet searches to find facts, and a quick presentation of the results (in writing and sometimes verbally in class).

Midterm Exam (30%): An in-person exam based on all materials covered in class and in the assigned reading (up until that point), including but not limited to class discussions, readings, and guest lectures.

Final Exam (40%): An in-person exam based on all the materials covered in class and assigned readings since the beginning of the semester.

Grading Scale:

A+: 97-100	A: 94-96	A-: 90-93
B+: 87-89	B: 84-86	B-: 80-83
C+: 77-79	C: 74-76	C-: 70-73
	D: 65-69	F: 0-64

Final Grades: GMU requires instructors to submit final grades within two days of the final exam, which does not leave anytime to accept additional work to raise an individual grade.

Course Schedule: Please note that the course schedule detailed below is subject to change. Reading can be assigned outside of the syllabus. Please check your GMU e-mail account regularly for course updates and reading materials. All assigned reading is subject to testing.

1-22-24 Introduction and overview. The legal history of due process and the Constitution. Origin of the Supreme Court. How the court works. Origin of the 4th amendment.

1-29-24 4th and 14th Amendments. Growth of the 4th amendment and addition of the 14th amendment. Court cases that changed the interpretation of the amendments.

2-5-24 Search and seizure. What rights do the Law Enforcement Officers and Agents have, and what rights do the citizens have.

2-12-24 Electronic Surveillance. Title III

2-19-24 The Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), Stored Communications Act of 1986 (SCA): Microsoft v. US. Trackers and Beacons: US v Knotts, US v Karo, US v Jones

2-26-24 Public, Private, and Government Surveillance Cameras and the Use of new technology, One party consent and all party consent. Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).

3-4-24 to 3-10-24 Spring Recess

3-11-24 The Patriot Act

3-18-24 Midterm Test

3-25-24 First Amendment – Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition. Second Amendment.

4-1-24 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) 1978 and The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act CALEA (1994). National security and Intelligence.

4-8-24 The FBI, the Intelligence Community, and the NSA.

4-15-24 Civil Liberties and Privacy Around the World. How the world legislates privacy. Spying on journalists.

4-22-24 Covid 19 and health care.

4-29-24 Internet Surveillance and Privacy. Spying on journalists. Metadata, Data Breaches and Ransomware.

TBD Final Exam