



UNIVERSITY
OF TASMANIA

School of Information Systems

Faculty of Commerce

BSA763
Policy Frameworks and the
Information Economy

Semester 2, 2006

Unit Outline

Paul Turner

CRICOS Provider Code: 00586B

Contact details

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All emails should include

Students full name, Student ID, Unit Code BSA 763, contact detail: any email history, campus and the exact nature of the question or request i.e. extension, assessment task

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Giddens, A. (1990) *The Consequences of Modernity*, Polity Press (HM 131 .G397)

Hill, M. & Ham, C.(1997) *The Policy Process in the Modern State*, London, Prentice Hall, (H 97 .H35 Cent-Res)

Kahin, B. & Nesson, C.(1997) *Borders in cyberspace: information policy and the global information infrastructure* MIT Press (K 4305.4 .B67)

Boyne, R & Rattansi, A (1990) *Postmodernism and Society*, Macmillan, (PN 98 .P67 P68).

Castells, M (1998) *End of millennium*, Malden, Mass, Blackwell Publishers, (HN 17.5 .C354)

Chomsky, N. (1996) *Power and prospects: Reflections on human nature and the social order*, Allen and Unwin, NSW St Leonards (327.101 C548p)

Further learning resources

IT Australian (Tuesday every week) www.theaustralian.com.au
Business Review Week (BRW) - regularly covers current ICT policy issues
Australian Financial Review or visit www.afr.com.au

Web Resources

Foundation for Information Policy Research <http://www.fipr.org/>
OECD Science, Technology & Industry - <http://www.oecd.org/dsti/3.htm>
UNESCO Info-Society Observatory - <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/observatory/index.shtml>
IFLA Information Policy resources - <http://www.ifla.org/II/infopol.htm>
European Union Information Society - http://europa.eu.int/information_society/index_en.htm
USA National Information Infrastructure - <http://nii.nist.gov/>
Internet Society - <http://www.isoc.org/>
Electronic Frontier Foundation - <http://www.eff.org/>
BRINT Info- policy and Infrastructure resources - <http://www.brint.com/NII.htm>

Faculty web site

<http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/business/business/>

Aim

This unit is an elective unit in the Masters of Information Systems degree. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of, and insight into public policy issues surrounding the global diffusion of information and communication technologies.

This unit adopts a critical approach towards the hype surrounding the evolving information economy and examine some of the implications of the further commoditisation of information in the social sphere. It aims to highlight the need for social issues to be actively addressed in policy discussions for the development of a successful and inclusive information economy - information society. The broad scope of this unit will facilitate discussion of the theory and practice of ICT policy in the global information economy. It is anticipated that this unit will provide students with important insights and perspectives that will be applicable to many issues covered in other information systems units.

This unit examines public policies concerned with the creation, ownership, utilisation, distribution and storage of information and communications in the context of the development of information and communication technologies. The unit also provides students with the skills necessary to analyse and critique alternative policy approaches and considers a range of theoretical models on policy processes.

More specifically the aim of the unit is as follows:

- To examine public policies concerned with the creation, ownership, use, distribution and storage of information and communications, and to explore their development at regional, national and supra-national levels in relation to the evolution of digital information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- To discuss a number of analytical frameworks for conducting analysis of policy making processes surrounding information and communication technologies i.e. policy formulation, implementation and evaluation;
- To explore the interactions between the socio-cultural, political and economic context, ICTs and policy-making processes;
- To consider various theoretical models on the distribution of power and processes of policy-making in democratic states for understanding how power and economics interact to shape the evolving information economy and information society.

Learning outcomes and Evidences

On completion of this unit, you should be able to:

1. Have an understanding of public information and communication policies in the information economy;

2. Be able to deploy a range of analytical frameworks in exploring interactions between policy-making processes and the socio-economic context;
3. Be able to critically analyse and evaluate alternative approaches to information and communication policies.

More specifically upon successful completion of this unit a student should have attained:

1. An understanding of public information and communication policies in the information economy;

Assessment

HD: Demonstrate significant in-depth understanding of public information and communication policies in the information economy

DN: Demonstrate an extensive understanding of public information and communication policies in the information economy

CR: Demonstrate a sound understanding of public information and communication policies in the information economy

PP: Demonstrate a sufficient but limited understanding of public information and communication policies in the information economy

2. Be able to deploy a range of analytical frameworks in exploring interactions between policy-making processes and the socio-economic context;

Assessment

HD: Demonstrate significant capacity to deploy a range of analytical frameworks in exploring interactions between policy-making processes and the socio-economic context;

DN: Demonstrate an extensive capacity to deploy a range of analytical frameworks in exploring interactions between policy-making processes and the socio-economic context;

CR: Demonstrate a sound capacity to deploy a range of analytical frameworks in exploring interactions between policy-making processes and the socio-economic context;

PP: Demonstrate a sufficient but limited capacity to deploy a range of analytical frameworks in exploring interactions between policy-making processes and the socio-economic context;

3. Be able to critically analyse and evaluate alternative approaches to information and communication policies.

Assessment

HD: Demonstrate significant ability to critically analyse and evaluate alternative approaches to information and communication policies.

DN: Demonstrate an extensive ability to critically analyse and evaluate alternative approaches to information and communication policies

CR: Demonstrate a sound ability to critically analyse and evaluate alternative approaches to information and communication policies

PP: Demonstrate a sufficient but limited ability to critically analyse and evaluate alternative approaches to information and communication policies

Generic graduate attributes

Knowledge - Graduates will have an in-depth knowledge in their chosen field of study and the ability to apply that knowledge in practice. They will be prepared for life-long learning in pursuit of personal and professional development

Communication Skills - Graduates will be able to communicate effectively across a range of contexts

Problem-solving Skills - Graduates will be effective problem-solvers, capable of applying logical, critical and creative thinking to a range of problems. They will have developed competencies in information literacy

Global Perspective - Graduates will be able to demonstrate a global perspective and inter-cultural competence in their professional lives

Social Responsibility - Graduates will act ethically, with integrity and social responsibility.

Prior knowledge &/or skills

As per handbook

Details of teaching arrangements

Lectures and Workshops

This unit consists of 27 contact hours via one 3 hours session per week for nine weeks. Each session will consist of a combination of lectures and workshops. ***A minimum of 60 hours of self-study is required in addition to the hours stated above.***

Hobart: Room IS215
Tuesdays 9.00 – 12.00

Access to information technology

Masters Students will have 24 hour 7 day a week access to the Research area on level 1 of the school of information systems while enrolled in the course.

Login codes are printed on the student's Statement of Fees and Enrolment. Use of these login codes is based on the assumption that each student has read and agreed to abide by the Ethics Agreement form.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S)

The University is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. In addition to specific requirements of this unit you should refer to the University's policy at:

http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/ohs.pdf

Lecture – Workshop Schedule

Nb. This unit outline is provided only as a guide and may be subject to change

Week	Lecture Topics	Tutorial/Workshop
1	<p>Introduction to the Unit.</p> <p>Details of aims and scope of the course; Assessment criteria; Course Requirements Examination.</p>	<p>General discussion.</p> <p>Exchange of views, perspectives and attitudes in relation to the evolving information economy - information society. Exploring basic concepts and terms in relation to the role of government in making policy to shape, influence developments and directions in the information economy.</p>
2	<p>Defining Information Policy</p> <p>Identification of the basic terms, concepts. Initial exploration of policy frameworks, ICT developments linked to debates about the information economy/society. Consideration of issues in policy analysis, identification of some tools and techniques. Context and theories of how policy is made including political/policy/power processes.</p>	<p>Topic1: Critical discussion on the Information economy - Information society.</p> <p>Consideration of the dominant discourses being articulated.</p> <p>Identification of the key policy issues and challenges being debated. Consideration of any issues being marginalised or receiving little policy attention.</p>
3	<p>Describing Information Policy</p> <p>Exploration of structure and content of Information and Communication Policies at National and Supra-national levels. Responses to Information economy/society</p> <p>Taxonomies/frameworks for defining ICT policies → problems, values, normative structure. Consideration of constraints on policy-making → the challenges of cyberspace - Convergence of industry sectors,</p>	<p>Topic 2: Convergence.</p> <p>Discussion and debate on the issues/challenges and policy problems arising from convergence at informational/sectoral and policy levels</p>

	<p>informational forms - Clash of existing regulation, rules and procedures</p> <p>Consideration of key concepts, dominance of laissez-faire approach.</p>	
4	<p>Examination of Policy Analysis, Processes and Frameworks.</p> <p>Defining problems and approaches for the analysis of policy problems & issues in the Information Economy.</p> <p>Exploration of policy process - from agenda setting through to evaluation.</p>	<p>Topic 3: Meta Analysis:</p> <p>Considering tools, techniques and frameworks used to investigate and analyse ICT policies.</p> <p>Exploring distinction between Analysis <i>for</i> and analysis <i>of</i> policy</p>
5	<p>Policy Analysis:</p> <p>Tools and techniques for analysing policy processes;</p> <p>Detailed examination of policy life cycle from agenda formation through to evaluation and policy delivery → impacts of policy and tools for investigation and assessment</p>	<p>Topic 4: Policy Life Cycle:</p> <p>Doing policy analysis: sensitivity to context, role of researcher, content and access to sources.</p>
6	<p>Decision Analysis and Policy making in democratic States:</p> <p>The analysis of the interaction between Power and politics in the information economy</p> <p>Critiques of Policy Analysis</p>	<p>Topic 5: Politics and Power:</p> <p>How are agendas set and policy problems identified. Policy development does not occur in a social or political vacuum.</p> <p>Theories and approaches for analysing these processes</p>
7	<p>Australia</p> <p>Background history and development of Information economy/society approach</p>	<p>Topic 6: Case 1 Australia – National level</p>

8	Australia Examples from the State of Tasmania – intelligent Island debate	Topic 7: Case 2 Tasmania – State level
9	Europe The Information Society (Includes comparison with North America)	Topic 8: Case 3 - International Europe
10	Summary and Revision Session	Questions

NOTE: The Unit Co-ordinator reserves the right to alter lecture and workshop arrangements. Students will be advised of changes to the program via their University email account and it remains the responsibility of the student to check their email for such changes.

Learning expectations and strategies

Expectations

The University is committed to high standards of professional conduct in all activities, and holds its commitment and responsibilities to its students as being of paramount importance. Likewise, it holds expectations about the responsibilities students have as they pursue their studies within the special environment the University offers.

The University's Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning states:

Students are expected to participate actively and positively in the teaching/learning environment. They must attend classes when and as required, strive to maintain steady progress within the subject or unit framework, comply with workload expectations, and submit required work on time.

It is expected that students will consult email sent to their University email address at least twice a week for notices relating to the administration of the unit, and for notification of the results of assignments.

It is expected that students will read the background material specified in the course curriculum, will actively attend and participate in tutorials, and be

prepared to discuss relevant issues arising with tutors, lecturers and fellow students.

Student Expectations of the Unit

Students enrolled in this Unit may reasonably expect the following:

1. To be able to contact a lecturer or tutor by electronic mail, to raise issues arising in the unit, either relating to content or student performance within the unit.
2. Subject to availability, to be able to discuss such issues in person with the lecturer or tutor.
3. That assignments will be marked and the marks will be returned with 3 weeks of due dates.
4. That all relevant notices regarding the administration of the unit, including any necessary changes, will be communicated to all students enrolled in the unit via email.

These expectations are in addition to those specified in relevant University regulations.

Learning strategies

If you need assistance in preparing for study please refer to your tutor or lecturer. For additional information refer to the Learning Development website : <http://www.utas.edu.au/learndev/>

Assessment Summary

In order to pass a unit, the School of Information Systems expects that students:

Achieve a total mark of at least 50% in the total assessment of the unit.

In accordance with the University of Tasmania Codes of Conduct, Guidelines and Policies, under the section dealing with *Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning-Responsibilities of students to the University*, the following should be noted:

For the unit in which they are enrolled, students should make themselves aware of all subject or unit information made available in the appropriate handbook and in the first week of the academic timetable and should raise any questions or concerns with the appropriate academic staff member in a timely manner.

The assessment comprises:

Assessment:

Item	Description	Weight
1	Presentation : A 15-20 minute presentation during the workshops.	25%

2	Essay : Policy Frameworks and the Information Economy. Students will develop a title and then produce an essay of between 2500 – 4000 words in length	25%
3	Examination – 9 hour open book examination	50%

Assessment due dates: Will be announced at the first lecture.

How your final result is determined

In order to pass a unit, the School of Information Systems expects that students:

- Achieve a total of at least 45% in continuous assessment, and
- Achieve a total of at least 45% in the examination, and
- Achieve a total mark of at least 50% in the total assessment of the unit.

Note:

In exceptional circumstances, the School reserves the right to adjust the above assessment rule.

Submission of assignments

Students must submit assignments for the unit by the specified dates and times (if given), unless prior approval has been granted via an assignment extension form, at least 24 hours before the assignment is due to be submitted.

Every assessment task has a due date and method of submission. These due dates and methods of submission must be adhered to.

For each piece of assessment, there will be only one method of submission.

Notes:

- **Students must take responsibility for the correct submission of their assignments.**
- **Students must take responsibility for safely backing up of their own files during the academic year to ensure that no files are permanently lost.**

Requests for extensions

Extensions will be given only under the following conditions:

- Employment related issues: Arrangements for an extension must be made with the lecturer prior to the assignment due date. Documentation from your employer is required.
- Illness: A medical certificate must be presented to the lecturer either prior to the due date or as soon as possible after the due date.

The lecturer of the unit will address any extraordinary extension falling outside of these criteria.

All extensions must be applied for at least 24 hours before and can be emailed, full details must be provided. Verbal extensions will not be accepted.

Students should not assume that all extension applications will be granted. Students must have received confirmation of the extension by the Lecturer in order for an extension to be granted.

Any extension granted will have a new submission due date and time.

Assignments that are not submitted by the due date and time will incur the following penalties:

Penalties

10% (of mark achieved) per day or part thereof (excluding extensions) for late submissions.

Review of assessment and appeals

1. It is expected that students will adhere to the following policy for review of any piece of **continuous assessment**.
 - a) Within 5 days of the release of the assessment result, the student should request an appointment with the Lecturer. **The student should be prepared to discuss specifically which section of the marking criteria they are disputing and why they consider the mark is inappropriate.**
 - b) Following this discussion, students may request a formal remark of the original submission (in accordance with Rule of Academic Assessment 111, clause 22.1). This remark will be undertaken, where practicable, by an alternative assessor.
2. Students under with Rule of Academic Assessment 111, clause 23 may also request a review of the **final result** in a unit. The request and payment must be made within 10 days from the date of the result notification.

Students are referred to:

<http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/HANDBOOKS/UTASHANDBOOKS/RULES/RU>

[LE111.html](#) and
http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/ac_serv/flowchart_review_assesment.pdf

Complaints procedure

It is expected that students will adhere to the following policy for making any complaint or grievance directly related to a Unit:

- a) In the first instance, students are to approach the Lecturer or Unit Coordinator concerned and arrange a time to speak with them about their concern.
- b) If an issue remains unresolved, the student should approach the Head of School and arrange a time to speak with them about their concern.

If the School's internal policy of complaints is unable to resolve an issue, students should consult Ordinance 8 Student Complaints for further direction.

Academic referencing

In your written work you will need to support your ideas by referring to scholarly literature, works of art and/or inventions. It is important that you understand how to correctly refer to the work of others and maintain academic integrity.

Failure to appropriately acknowledge the ideas of others constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism), a matter considered by the University of Tasmania as a serious offence.

The appropriate referencing style for the School of Information Systems is Harvard Referencing. Students are expected to adhere to the School of Information System's preferred method of Referencing and Citation, as outlined in <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/assist/gpoa/gpoa2.html>.

For information on presentation of assignments, including referencing styles: <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/assist/gpoa/gpoa.html>

Please read the following statement on plagiarism. Should you require clarification please see your unit coordinator or lecturer.

Plagiarism

While students are encouraged to discuss the assignments in this unit and to engage in active learning from each other, it is important that they are also aware of the University's policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example downloading an essay wholly or in part from the internet, copying another student's work or using an author's words or ideas without citing the source. Plagiarism detection software is currently being tested by the University of Tasmania.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>. The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>

The University reserves the right to submit assignments to plagiarism detection software, and might then retain a copy of the assignment on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking.

For further information on this statement and general referencing guidelines, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/>. Useful resources on academic integrity, including what it is and how to maintain it, are also available at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/students.html>

Further information and assistance

To obtain assistance with the course you should:

1. Speak to the lecturer or course coordinator who will be available at designated times
2. Contact the Unit Coordinator via email: paul.turner@utas.edu.au
3. Arrange an appointment with a lecturer in advance, either via email to paul.turner@utas.edu.au, by phoning the School Office on extension 6200 (Hbt).

All emails should be sent to the Unit Co-coordinator (and not to the lecturer) and it should include

- *Students full name, Student ID, Unit Code BSA 101, campus, contact details (ie mobile no.) and the exact nature of the question or request i.e. extension, assessment task.*

Communicating announcements to students in relation to this unit will be conducted in lectures and via email. Students therefore must check their email and WebCT/Vista at least on a twice weekly basis.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you are advised to raise these with your lecturer in the first instance.

There is a range of University-wide support services available to you including Student Services, International Services and Learning Development. Please refer to the *Current Students* homepage at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/students/> Should you require assistance in accessing the Library visit their website for more information at <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>

Your contact Librarian for this unit is: Ms Heather Mitchell, Morris Miller Library.

IT Training Online including the International Computer Driver's Licence (ICDL) http://www.utas.edu.au/staff/training/free_it.html

Web Mail ITS Help at <http://www.its.utas.edu.au/help/helpsheets.html> or <http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

WebCT/Vista Help- Refer to (Revision Tutorial) Modules
<http://vista.utas.edu.au/webct/logonDisplay.dowebct>
<http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/services/>

International Services website provides information on the assistance available to international students, visit their site at:
<http://www.international.utas.edu.au/>

The Learning Development website has a wide range of resources on study skills and learning strategies, visit their site at:
<http://www.utas.edu.au/learndev/> These include the enabling programs UniStart and UPP.

Help resolving concerns about this unit

In the first instance you should contact your lecturer. If the matter is still unresolved and you would like to know who to contact or the procedures for resolving your concern refer to the following website:
http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/ac_serv/complaints_info.html

The Hobart based Tasmanian University Union (TUU)

The School reserves the right to alter the details contained in this Unit Outline. Students will be advised of changes to the outline via their University email account and it remains the responsibility of the student to check their email for such changes.