

Course Syllabus

Communications 680: Telecommunications Seminar

Telecommunications and Information Resource Management

Graduate Certificate Program

Department of Communication

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Instructor s: Dan Wedemeyer, Ph.D. (danw@hawaii.edu)
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Course Meeting Locations: Hawaii (Saunders Hall 713), American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and other locations in the United States.

Course Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday (with exception on 11/9/04, 1/6/05, 3/3/05 and 5/5/05) and Wednesday (11/10/04, 1/5/05, 3/2/05 and 5/4/05); 6-9 PM Hawaii Standard Time.

Course Topics: This seminar course examines contemporary topics in telecommunications and information resource management. Specifically, the course will review emerging technology, policy, regulation, and management issues; examine national, regional, and international perspectives on the digital divide; compare telecommunications policy and regulation within the U.S. and other parts of the world (with special attention given to the Pacific Islands Region); and study how ICT is being used in the areas of education, health care, and government. The seminar will also discuss how ICT may impact you in your profession.

Course Format: This course is conducted through both synchronous video teleconferencing and asynchronous online and formats.

For synchronous classes, the sessions will be conducted through video teleconferencing. Participants in the course will participate via H.323 compliant video teleconferencing systems on their own PCs or at locations worked out with the Instructor.

For asynchronous Web classes, course assignments, lectures and other didactic delivery will be accessed by students through a Web based course server, Tegrity, and other Windows Media/Real Media course objects.

Requirements & Expectations: Students are expected to prepare for each class session by completing assigned readings, web-searches and/or recommended readings. There will be short quizzes that are intended to ensure that the participants are keeping up with the readings.

Course Grades: Course grades will be based on four research memoranda/papers, participation in the class sessions, and a final professional portfolio.

Memorandum on Background and ICT Area of Interest	15%
ICT in Education, Government, Business, or Health Care	15%
ICT Memorandum on the Digital Divide	15%
Professional Portfolio	45%
Class Participation	10%
	100%

The grading scale will be on a curve.

Attendance & Participation: All participants are required to both participate and attend the class sessions. Class contributions are important and everyone has something to contribute! If you might not be able to contribute in a particular session, you could ask good questions. At the same time, please remember that we are hoping for quality discussions and “rambling” is unacceptable as well.

Assignments:

1. **Memorandum on Background** – Assignment – Situation – A new manager has been hired in your organization. The manager is requesting that you prepare a memorandum on your office, and your background, duties and responsibilities, interests in the field and an ICT issue you believe is important. Please prepare a memorandum that provides a comprehensive overview of your unit, your position, and your knowledge, skills, and abilities in the field of information and communications technology. Explain your interests, knowledge, skills, and abilities in the field of ICT; and, include a statement that summarizes an ICT issue in your organization.
2. **ICT in Education, Health Care or Other Public Interest Area** – Assignment – Select an area based on your analysis of the current systems that has created a technology related issue that affects the mission of your organization. Build on the current systems review to prepare an analysis of a problem that might be solved via a technology based solution.
3. **Bridging the Digital Divide** – Assignment – The CEO has been invited to speak on the gaps in the use of technology to a small group from the United Nations ICT Task Force. The CEO is requesting that you prepare a “White

Paper” that describes and analyzes the nature of the digital divide in your country with a focus on a specific geographical or other focal area where the divide exists. Prepare an analysis and assessment of the issue using as much data as possible.

4. **Portfolio Assignment** – A www-based portfolio is an multi-mediated assembly of digital files (HTML/XML, TIF, GIF, etc.). In this case it should reflect a reasoned and personally unique set of telecommunication and information resource management (TIRM) projects, presentations, a personal resumé, etc. The components can come from COM 680, 681, 682, 683, 684 or other sources.

An artist's portfolio reflects his/her personal interests and capabilities in a professional manner. You could think of it as a demonstration of your telecommunication and information interests and literacy levels--a way of explaining what it is you have done, what you are interested in and how professionally competent you are. It should demonstrate to me and others what it is you have accomplished over the past ten months during the TIRM Certificate Program. The introduction and conclusion of your portfolio should tie together your experience and point out the logic, rationale, structure and importance of your past year's accomplishments.

You can create your webpage using any authoring software you prefer. Once developed, you can upload it to the COM 680 page. That will allow each of us to look at each other's portfolio.

Note on above assignments – There is flexibility in the way in which the above assignments have been constructed to fit your particular background and interests. Think about how you would like to approach the above assignments since they are cumulative. Please complete the assignments in a professional manner. Although footnotes are not normally included in business memoranda, please use footnotes as appropriate to provide further detail. If you do not have an organizational setting to work with, please develop a plan to focus on an organizational setting that meets your needs and discuss the plan with your Instructor.

Required Text: None

Course Topics

1.	TIRM Program Orientation, Course Introduction, and Participant Interests	11/04/04 Thur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum on Background and ICT Area of Interest (Due on 11/10/04)
2.	Telecommunications and Information Resource Management – Concepts, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities – Personal Assessment Exercise and Filamentality (Choose your topic, research, and connect links)	11/10/04 Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing your Telecommunication Literacy • Read PTR article by Dr. Wedemeyer and Dr. Ono “Telecommunications Forecasts: Reducing Next Millennium Risks” • Read Journal Articles • Professional Portfolio Assignment I – Scenario Assignment (Due on 01/05/05)
3.	Current and Emerging Telecommunication IT Technologies, Networks, Services and Issues (Cheaper-Faster-Better, Wireline, Wireless, Cell Wireless, Spam, Viruses, Privacy, Hackers)	01/04/05 Tue	
4.	Telecommunications, Competition and deregulation	01/05/05 Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Portfolio Assignment II – Book Assignment and e-Review (Due on 03/01/05)
5.	Pacific Telecommunications Conference (PTC)	01/16/05 Sun to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Portfolio Assignment III – Report on PTC. (Due on 01/26/05)
6.	Pacific Telecommunications Conference (PTC)	01/19/05 Wed	
7.	Telecommunications and Information Economics and Development	03/01/05 Tue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Memorandum on Digital Divide (Due on 05/03/05)
8.	Divide, Universal Service Concepts and Funding Mechanisms in the U.S.	03/02/05 Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Telecom Act of 1996, FCC Universal Service Funding Mechanism
9.	Digital-Health, Telehealth, and Telemedicine	05/03/05 Tue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filamentality Assignment (Due on 06/23/05) • Visit recommended Telehealth related websites • Short paper on ICT in Education , Government, Business, or Health Care (Due on 06/23/05)
10.	e-Learning, Distance Learning, Flexible Learning	05/04/05 Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit recommended Distance Learning websites • Professional Portfolio Assignment IV – Write a 2-3 page paper on the future of education (Due on 06/23/05)
11.	e-Commerce and e-Governance	06/23/05 Thur	
12.	ICT and Telecommunications Management Challenges	06/28/05 Tue	
13.	Professional Portfolios - Graduation!	06/30/05 Thur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Professional Portfolio Assignment – Your Personal WWW-based Portfolio

***The detailed course activities, readings, and assignments may be accessed via <http://ecourse.tipg.net/>