

# General Information for MC09J: Law on the Electronic Frontier

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## Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisites.

## Grading

This course is graded on a letter grade basis. One quarter of the grade will derive from each of the following four sources:

- daily journal entries (see below)
- participation in class discussion
- group project written reports (see below)
- group project oral presentation (see below)

## Class Meetings

We will meet five days a week from 9–10 and 10:30–11:30 in Confer 126. The classes will consist largely of unstructured group discussion of the readings, so please do the readings, think about them, and come prepared to share your interpretations and reactions as well as listen to those of others. The journal writing assignments are intended to help you with this preparation.

## Office Hours

Each of us is available from 1–2pm Monday through Friday. Professor Hailperin's office is OHS 303, while Professor Reese's is SSC 113. You may also make an appointment; Professor Hailperin's extension is 7466 and his email is [max@gac.edu](mailto:max@gac.edu), while Professor Reese's extension is 7405.

## Readings

Before you come to class tomorrow (i.e., Wednesday the fourth), you should read part one (“Crashing the System”) of Sterling's *The Hacker Crackdown*.

At that class meeting, you will receive a complete list of the reading assignments for each of the remaining days (subject to change). The assignments shown on that list should each be done before coming to class on the indicated day.

## **Journal writing**

Each day for which there is a reading assignment you must write a brief “journal entry” on that day’s reading. You can use this to highlight specific points to ask about or comment on, and you can also use it to react more holistically to the reading. Both of these are essential to ensure that you get the most out of the reading and are able to participate in discussion. Sometimes we may make additional specific suggestions about what you should be looking for and writing about in the next day’s reading.

We will ask you to turn in your entries each day so we can look them over, so they should be done in a three-ring binder or the like. We won’t carefully mark up and grade the journal entries, but rather just look them through as a source of insight into your learning process. For grading purposes, we will simply count how many non-sham journal entries we received from you. If you turn in a non-sham entry each day, you will receive full credit for that quarter of the course grade.

Be sure you take your writing seriously not only while doing it, but also during in-class discussion. Otherwise, your thinking will be the product of the discussion, rather than the discussion being the product of your thought. Resist the temptation to throw out your pre-discussion ideas as “wrong” and instead echo our own views or those of the class show-off—your views are every bit as valid.

## **Group projects**

You will work in groups of approximately three students to do survey research on a topic, write a paper on that topic, and orally present the material to the class. We will discuss this in more detail in class the first day. The last two days of the course will be set aside for the presentations. We strongly urge you to use on-line resources as well as conventional library resources for your research. In particular, you should use Mosaic to look at the World Wide Web page of starting points for exploration that we have compiled. You can get at this by using the Open command in Mosaic and giving the URL [Uniform Resource Locator] <http://www.gac.edu/~max/mc09j.html>. We plan to demonstrate this in class, provided we can work out the technical details.

## **Honor**

Students are encouraged to discuss the course, including issues raised by the writing assignments. However, your writing should be individual original work (or the group’s work, in the case of the group project) unless otherwise specified. Any substantive contribution to your work by another person or taken from a publication should be properly acknowledged in writing. Failure to do so is plagiarism and will necessitate disciplinary action.

## **Late Assignments**

All writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day indicated. No late assignments will be accepted except under such special circumstances as illness or death in the family.

## **Accessibility**

Please contact one of us immediately if you have special physical circumstances, e.g. impaired vision, which may affect the accessibility of any course components. We will do our best to facilitate necessary arrangements or resources.