I. SCOPE OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed to familiarize students with the issues, laws, policies/procedures, and litigation involving information technology in public schools. The course attempts to balance the key challenges for schools. “…balance the hazards against the potential good that can be accomplished by allowing access to the tools of e-mail and the Internet,” as stated so well by Ronald Wenkart, general counsel for the Orange County Department of Education. The course will include student, staff, administrative issues relating to technology, as well as examining copyright issues and laws. The course will also examine ethical behavior and standards for developing an ‘Acceptable Use Policy’ for the use of technology in schools.

Although the course is designed primarily to address technology issues in the school setting, depending on the student makeup of the class, the course has been expanded on a ‘limited’ basis to help meet the needs of students working in the private sector.

II. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Required Text:


Supplemental Readings:

Legislation Governing The Use of Technology

- Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986
- Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)
III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Students will be able to review and discuss:

- The case law and the constitutional rights governing student/staff conduct in schools and further review current legislation affecting information technology used in schools.

- The various aspects of the law governing the use of student technology inside and outside of the school setting and the appropriate safeguards school may use to avoid inappropriate use, such as an ‘Acceptable Use Policy.’

- The extensive variety of administrative issues in the use of school technology ranging from ‘sexual harassment,’ school directors use of e-mail, e-mail grant and building security of technology equipment.

- The legal issues in regulating the use of school technology ranging from personal use, First Amendments issues, collective bargaining issues, staff training and work safely with computer equipment.

- The legal issues involving ‘Copyright’ laws ranging from the Federal Laws regulating copyright protection to policies allowing for ‘Fair Use’ which provide exceptions to copyright protection.

- The Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) currently used in their district (company) and describe how that policy may be more effective based on current readings and information from this course

- Copyright law in the “Digital Age,” the Digital Millenium Copyright Act, “Fair Use” standards, recommendations for “Distance Learning,” policy considerations for School Boards and finally tips on managing copyrights in changing school/work environments

- Technology and ethical behavior and responsibility in the work place, as well as discussing a variety of hypothetical technology situations that present a variety of legal issues for students and staff in the school setting as well as employees in the private sector
IV. GENERAL STUDENT CONDUCT IN THE COURSE

- If a student requires special assistance or arrangements in class due to a disability, he/she must notify the instructor before the end of the first week of the semester.

- Class attendance, participation and professionalism is expected of each student for all of the classes. As for attendance – It is required for every class and roll will be taken in every class (If special circumstances arise, contact the instructor to explain) Absence from One class will be allowed – Two classes – the student will not receive the benefit of the doubt in grading – Three classes or more classes will affect the student’s grade.

- Students are expected to comply with the Heinz School Ethics and Discipline Policy

- Assigned readings, documents and handouts are to be completed and reviewed for class discussion and will be included on the final examination.

- Active participation and note taking by every student is required for each of the classes. Special Note: Because of the amount of active participation required in class, skill of common courtesy are appreciated especially good listening skills.

- Journals – Each student is required to keep a journal for this course. The journal will be an important part of the student’s final grade. A completed journal should include all of the materials and notes from each class to comprise a complete written record of the entire course. Therefore, the journal should include: >Course Syllabi >Course/Schedule outline by class >Class notes (*on word) >Handouts >A weekly ‘reflection’ piece on what you believe was the most important/interesting concept you learned from the last class (*on word)

- Mini-Paper followed by an Oral Report to the Class – Students will prepare and present to the class an instructor approved topic on Information Technology – representing an area of the student’s particular interest ranging from an analysis of the current Acceptable Use Policy being used in their district/company to copyright infringements to recent litigation in the use of technology.

- Students will have the opportunity to do a group oral and written report

- Student may wish to recommend a guest speaker to the class who has expertise in the area of information technology.

IV. FINAL GRADE CONSISTS OF

- Class attendance and class participation
- Individual/Group Oral – Written Assignment
- Completing all text book reading and reports
- Journals and Final Examination