

# Sam Houston State University

Department of Digital Forensics

DF 630: Cyber Law

3 Semester Credit Hours

Spring 2008

## General Information

**Classroom Location:** WH 114  
**Class Time:** Wednesday 6-9 as scheduled, on-line as scheduled  
**Instructor:** Dr. Karon Murff  
**Office:** TRIES  
**Phone:** 294 1075  
**Email:** knm002@shsu.edu

## Office Hours

Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm and by appointment

The most effective way of contacting me is by email: knm002@shsu.edu

**Course Title:** Cyber Law

## Course Description

This course will review the legal and regulatory issues faced by law enforcement, prosecutors, telecommunication service providers and users in the US as well as around the world. Students will learn law categories and types, case citation, internet law, cyber crime legal issues. There will be an emphasis on current and emerging changes in the field.

## Course Objectives

On completion of this course, students will:

1. Have an understanding and appreciation of basic cyber laws and their application in a commercial or professional environment.
2. Be able to define and work with legal and regulatory issues in a digital environment.
3. Be able to perform and complete legal research in a digital environment.

## Required Texts

Ferrera, Gerald R. (2004). *CyberLaw: Text and Cases*. Second Edition. ISBN: 0-324-16488-2

## Required Supplies

None at this time

## Optional Texts, References or Supplies

Ability to connect to online classes

## Attendance Requirements

This course will be largely internet based. Student attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Absence from any and each class period will result in no grade for the class missed. Documented medical related absences are exempt from this policy.

## Assignments

On-line discussion will be a large part of your grade. Reading assignments will be posted to Blackboard. Each student will be required to read the assignment by the due date and post to the on-line discussion on

Blackboard. Each student will be required to post for each reading assignment comments and critiques on the subject matter just read. Comments and discussion are required from other students. Do NOT repeat back a synopsis of the reading assignment. Comments and discussion are to be based on original thoughts. Every Friday each student is to critique the thoughts and comments of the other students on the roster. Each classmate is to be rated from highest to lowest. DO NOT post the critique to Blackboard. Email this critique directly to me by midnight each Friday. Your grade will be based on critiques by classmates and instructor review. No harassment or profanity will be allowed. Please treat each and every classmate with respect.

### **Exams**

The course grading system includes three tests and a final examination. Each of the tests will consist of a minimum of 10 short answer (1 – 2 paragraphs) questions. The final will be comprehensive. No make up tests/examinations will be allowed save for documented medical emergencies. ALL TESTS WILL BE TAKEN IN THE CLASS ROOM.

### **Case Briefs**

Each week, you will be required to turn in 2 case briefs related to the reading assignment for that week. The briefs must be over cases that are NOT cited in the text. Turn in briefs by emailing to me.

### **Grading Criteria**

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • 12 Forums worth 50 points each                 | 600 points  |
| • 12 Forum rankings worth 25 points each         | 300 points  |
| • Case briefs (2 each week) worth 50 points each | 1300 points |
| • 3 tests and a final worth 100 points each      | 400 points  |
| Total points                                     | 2600 points |

Point division

A = 2340 points and up

B = 2080 – 2339 points

C = 1820 – 2070 points

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. A complete detail of the policy may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process. During forum discussion it is acceptable to debate and disagree with other students. HOWEVER, this is to be completed in a professional matter. No slamming of character or profanity will be allowed.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf)

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic

performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/%7Evaf\\_www/aps/811006.html](http://www.shsu.edu/%7Evaf_www/aps/811006.html)

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.