

IS 474 Legal Aspects of Information Systems

Catalog Description: A study of laws, regulations, and legal issues with particular relevance for professionals in the field of Information Systems. Topics covered will include foundational areas of law such as intellectual property and contracts, as well as legal topics with special importance in the field of Information Systems, such as privacy, data protection laws, and cyber crime. These legal topics will be examined within a variety of contexts, such as corporations, government, e-commerce, social networks, and music and entertainment.

Pre-requisites: IS300 or IS300H with a C or better, or waiver from instructor

Detailed Course Description: IS 474 is an introductory law course for students planning careers in Information Systems or other technology-focused fields. No prior knowledge of law is necessary. Students will learn what the law is, and how to analyze legal issues in interesting contexts, including music and entertainment.

The course includes two group projects. In the Contract Negotiation Project, groups negotiate and draft a software license contract. You will deal with contracts frequently in your careers: negotiating, implementing, and managing contracts with vendors and customers. This project is intended to help prepare you for that core responsibility, and teach you how to negotiate.



The end-of-semester project is called, “Beyoncé Week.” Students analyze a legal topic in the context of a business or industry they find interesting, and present their work in a creative way. Students have examined legal issues relating to YouTubers, fast fashion, cover music, athlete endorsements, anime, influencers and models, and sneakers. You can see their work here:

Website: <https://www.beyonceweekumbc.org/>

Instagram: @beyonceweekumbc

Students with questions about IS 474 are encouraged to contact the instructor, Scott Whittier (swhittie@umbc.edu).