“Telecommunications Policy”

Tuesday 2-5pm
Clough Commons 146

Prof. Hans K. Klein
Office: D.M. Smith Building, Room 313
School of Public Policy
E-mail: hans@gatech.edu
Office Hours: M,W 1-2pm

Description
This class is a foundational course in classic telecommunications. It will focus on such technologies as telephone, telegraph, post, broadcast radio and TV, cable television, and satellite communications. It will also touch on the Internet, but mostly as the Internet affects the older telecommunications sectors and actors and as they affect the Internet.

The intellectual approach will emphasize institutions. We will look at how institutions were created in the past in order to address opportunities presented by new technologies. And we will look at how established institutions affect later technological opportunities, possibly influencing choices made by policy actors.

Stated differently, this class will focus on governance. We will consistently examine who makes what substantive prescriptions according to what procedural rules.

Specific institutions to be examined included: the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Specific issues to be examined include: frequency allocation, content regulation, anti-trust, rate-setting, universal service, diversity, localism, and equity.

Grades will be composed of:
- Paper 1 (short) - 25%
- In-class presentation - 20%
- Paper 2 (topic of your choosing) - 40%
- Class participation - 15%

Books for this class include:
- Krasnow, Longley, Terry. *The Politics of Broadcast Regulation*
Readings Assignments:

Week 1
No Reading.

Week 2
- Zarkin, The Federal Communications Commission (Chaps. 1 and 3)

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5

Week 6
- AT&T Proposed Acquisition of T-Mobile
  - The Big Picture (skim):
  - The Specific Case (skim):
  - “Application and Supporting Documents” (AT&T lays out its case):
    - “Appendices” and “Declarations”
  - Record Documents (statements by other parties). Skim comments by:
    - Mayor Kasim Reed, Atlanta, GA
    - Electronic Freedom Foundation
    - American Antitrust Institute
    - Other comments as you wish
- USDOJ Case Against ATT (on T-square)
Week 7
Krasnow, Longley, Terry. *The Politics of Broadcast Regulation*

Week 8
- Kahin and Abbate (eds.). 1995. Standards Policy for Information Infrastructure. (Selections.)

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

Week 12

Week 13

Week 14

###