

**IST 618**  
**Reading Reflection Access and Affordability**

The purpose of a review essay is for you to answer an essay question using the main ideas from the required readings as well as other material you may have read on the topic.

**Essays** should be 1,200-1,500 words, *excluding references and title*.

**References** should be in APA style or an equivalent that gives full reference data for the paper: author(s) year, title, journal titles, volume and issue number or, if it is a book, the title and editor's names if relevant, page numbers in the journal or book, URL and/or DOI if available.

**Essay question:**

Information and communication technology systems (ICTs) are now almost routine for commercial transactions, banking, government operations, entertainment, education, and dissemination of public information. As more and more information and transactions go online, decisions about how information will be received and delivered can greatly affect individual's opportunities to participate and fully engage with government, commercial and educational operations and services. Information policy draws our attention to issues of access – in terms of availability, affordability, and knowledge about use of ICTs.

Using the readings listed below, and scholarly other material you find, consider how the implementation of digital only operations are likely to affect a population of your choosing (US or in any other country). For the assignment, identify the case of one particular population that you believe may have difficulty accessing online content – for example, low income users, seniors, unemployed, homeless, disabled, rural, refugees – and one aspect of government operation – e.g., relating to voting, democratic participation, unemployment, welfare, social security, education, public service information (e.g., health or weather warnings), immigration, taxes, . Discuss the (1) type of access (an office, a website, a broadcast, a mobile app, or a phone number for example) this population will need for the particular government operation, (2) how new digital only access might disrupt current practices, (3) what policy decisions and resources could help support their information access and/or transition to the new platform. Justify your decisions taking ethics into consideration, including theories as well as the different factors we discussed in class related to making ethical decisions.

**Readings (available on the class website)**

Warschauer, M. (2002). Reconceptualizing the digital divide. First Monday, 7(1).  
<http://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/967/888/>

Hargittai, E. & Walejko, G. (2008). The participation divide: Content creation and sharing in the digital age. (2), 239 - 256. DOI: 10.1080/13691180801946150 URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13691180801946150>

Bach, A., Shaffer, G. & Wolfson, T. (2013). Digital human capital: Developing a framework for understanding the economic impact of digital exclusion in low-income communities. Journal of Information Policy, 3, 247-266.

Garcia- Murillo, M. IST 618-Information Policy, Ethics lecture.

Schultz, R. A. (2005). Contemporary issues in ethics and information technology: IGI Global (Chapter 2)

**Rubric (maximum score is 100)**

	<b>Met criteria</b>	<b>Partially met criteria</b>	<b>Did not meet criteria</b>
Credible submission (a base score for a reasonable attempt to complete the assignment)	25	15	0
Percentage of quotes (no more than 5% of text in quotation marks)	5	3 (5-10%)	0
Answered all of the questions listed in the assignment instructions	5	3 (some answers)	0
Essay is 1200-1500 words long (not including references or title)	5	3 (1000-2000 words)	0
References are formatted in APA style	2		0
Concepts used from the materials/lectures of the class are in bold	2		0
Essay is organized with headings	2		0
A word count is provided at the end	2		0
Cites at least five high quality and reputable sources from academic journals, reputable sites,	5	3	0

government sites, and international agencies			
Includes at least 3 academic journal/peer reviewed sources in the text of the essay	6	4	0
Critical thinking/Analysis	The student uses logical thinking that is clear, convincing, compelling and organized when analyzing the public policy issues addressed in the assignment and is able to effectively criticize both serious and even more nuanced problems (biases and assumptions, missing key issues, design problems, unintended outcomes) of policy decisions in the digital economy. (10)	The student's logical thinking exhibits some weaknesses (not entirely convincing or logical) when analyzing the public policy issues addressed in the assignment and is able to criticize some of the most serious problems (biases and assumptions, missing key issues, design problems, unintended outcomes) of policy decisions in the digital economy. (7)	The student's logical thinking when analyzing the public policy issues in the assignment is confusing with unclear relationships between concepts. The criticism of policy decisions in the digital economy is incomplete or developed minimally. (0)
Application of the policy concepts	The student adequately applies key concepts from the materials and lectures of the class (economics, law, political science, ethics, etc.) (10)	The student uses key concepts from the materials and lectures of the class (economics, law, political science, ethics, etc.) although a few were not adequately applied (7)	The student does not use or applies incorrectly key concepts from the materials and lectures of the class (economics, law, political science, ethics, etc.). (0)
Understanding of ethics	The student is able to identify a potential ethical problem as well as describe and apply at least one ethical code in terms of how people behaved and	The student identifies the problem but does not clearly apply an ethical code or fails to identify a potential ethical problem even though the paper	The student fails to consider formal ethical theories or does not link theories to the problem. (0)

	alternative actions that they could have taken. (10)	describes an ethical code (7)	
Research	The student integrates relevant information and data that ties to the argument being made. S/he presents examples that clearly illustrate the point being made in the essay. (5)	The student integrates information and data but is not always clear how it ties to the argument. S/he presents examples that illustrate the point being made in the essay. (3)	The student integrates limited information and data and/or it is not adequately tied to the argument. S/he describes examples but the point being made with those examples is not always clear. (0)
Writing	Grammar, punctuation, spelling and capitalization are exemplary, which makes the assignment easy to read. The essay is clear, well written, and organized (6)	Grammar, punctuation, spelling and capitalization are correct or nearly so, and any minor errors do not detract from its reading. The essay is adequately written and organized, mostly clear, and reasonably easy to follow (4)	Numerous errors in grammar punctuation, spelling and capitalization substantially detract from the ability to read the essay. it is poorly written and lacks organization (0)