This seminar examines the daunting task of attempting to regulate the Internet and the social consequences of succeeding or failing in the effort. We’ll start by looking briefly at how other media are regulated in the United States in order to gain some context about regulation in general. Then we’ll consider various proposals to regulate the Internet in areas such as privacy, e-commerce, cyber security, universal deployment, and content control. Students successfully completing this course should be able to discuss intelligently the debates on internet regulation as well as to analyze effectively arguments for and against such regulation.

Students in this seminar will choose a current topic focusing on internet regulation and write a 15-20 page paper analyzing the issue. These papers should be of sufficient quality for presentation at Honors conferences and colloquia both on and off campus. Students will present their papers to their classmates at the end of the semester.