A signifcant part of this course will be an in-depth examination of a public policy question related to the use of encryption "technologies." The main vehicle for showing me you have made this examination will be a "position paper" and an in-class presentation. This project will comprise 2 parts of 7 in your final grade (i.e. roughly 28%). Here are the key points.

- Your topic should be **controversial** — something that will engender fervent discussion within the class.

- You should research and present **both sides** of the controversy **fairly**. Then you should adopt a stance and defend or advocate it. So I will be expecting at least three major sections in your paper: two are balanced and complete presentations of each of the two sides of the controversy, followed by a third section with your own opinions, and your reasons for adopting them.

- The controversy you have chosen should somehow relate to digital communication and **involve cryptology** in its cause or solution. A discussion of the technical aspects of the role of cryptology is a must. In other words, the technical material we have learned this semester should be used to bolster your argument. You are becoming an expert on cryptology, and so should exploit this prowess in your position paper.

- You should make use of **abundant sources**, both from the Internet and traditional sources. Give some careful thought to the reliability of sources on the Internet.

- Return to these points and **re-read** them prior to each stage of the project. They are the standards I will grade by and are here to help you do a good job on this.

For a project of this size, I will expect you to meet certain milestones, and you will be graded on each portion. These will absolutely not be accepted late. Deadlines for each due date are at the start of class. Mail to my "privacyport" address as a PDF (**not** as a Word document), except as noted.

- Proposal (4 pts). Friday, March 29. A one-page description of your topic will demonstrate that you have chosen a viable controversy related to the course, and that you have identified a few key sources. Wikipedia does qualify as a "key source." At least one of your sources should be primary.

- Rough Draft (8 pts). Friday, April 19. A rough draft. A substantially complete version of your position paper. This will be checked to insure that you are on the right track.

- Final Draft (60 pts). Friday, April 26. Completed paper, approximately 10–15 pages, double-spaced, with page numbers, with a bibliography for citations. No gross margins, no extra lines between paragraphs, no fixed-width fonts, no large fonts, no contractions. Excessive quotes will not count towards the length of your paper.

- Oral Presentation (20 pts). 15 minute in-class presentation based on the key themes of your position paper. Exact time slots to be scheduled later. (April 26 – May 8)

- Letter (8 pts). Wednesday, May 3. You will send a letter to a policymaker related to your controversy. The topic of your letter will pertain to the subject of your paper, and the policymaker will be an appropriate recipient of your letter. Your letter may be positive or negative. Submit two signed copies of your letter to me, along with an addressed envelope. I will mail your letter and UPS will pay the postage. (Let me know what you hear back!)

Here are some possible ideas for a topic, or sources for topics. You do not have to limit yourself to these topics (and I would be delighted to see topics chosen that are not from this list). The Crypto-Gram newsletter is one souce for ideas, as is the readings in class.

- Project Echelon

- Federal Surveillance Court

- FBI Keyboard loggers (Magic Lantern)

- Digital Rights Management (DRM)

- Digital Millenium Copyright Act (DMCA)

- Patriot Act

- Shakespeare/Bacon origins, ala Friedman

- Patentable algorithms

- Electronic Voting

- NSA's involvement with other government agencies (NIST, BXA, etc.)

- `www.themissingamendment.org`

- *The Puzzle Palace*, by James Bamford (sample chapters on WWW page)

- Follow privacy links on course WWW page (protection and abuse)

- *Crypto*

- *Secrets and Lies*

- Wired Magazine's *Privacy Matters*

- Wassenaar Arrangement

- Hager's *Secret Power*