

# Week 1: The recurring gap between data governance and accountability

## Section 1: Foundations

---

This week establishes the analytical framework for the course. Students examine how data governance failures occur across different administrations, technological eras, and legal contexts and identify the structural conditions that make those failures recurrent rather than exceptional. Cases are drawn from 1919 through the present day and span administrations of both parties.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Define data governance, privacy and ethics as distinct but interacting disciplines and identify where they diverge
- Distinguish between legal compliance and ethical accountability as analytical categories
- Identify the four structural conditions that recur across data governance failures regardless of political context
  - absence of oversight
  - purpose creep
  - aggregation
  - enforcement gaps
- Apply a consistent analytical framework to cases across administrations and eras without reliance on political or moral prior conclusions
- Articulate the course's central question: Why do governance frameworks fail to prevent the failures they were designed to prevent

### SESSION STRUCTURE

## **Hour 1 - Defining the three disciplines and their relationship**

---

---

## **Hour 2 - The pattern: a structured case walk**

---

---

## **Hour 3 - Small group analysis**

---

---

## **Hour 4 - The Church Committee and the question that opens the course**

---

Here is my content

### **Required Materials**

Here are required reading materials

### **Assignment**

Enter the course code to unlock assignments.